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FREDERICK LEWIS NORDEN

Daniel Traveller

THROUGH

EGYPT AND NUBIA.



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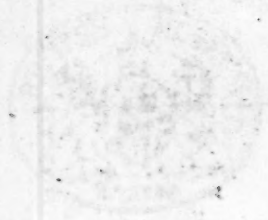
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NORDEN.

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A description of antient Alexandria.

ANTIENT Alexandria was subject to so many revolutions, and was so often destroyed, that were it not for its ports, and other monuments of antiquity, we should scarce be able to ascertain the place it stood on.

THE ports of Alexandria, now called the Old, and the New, were formerly named

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the ports of Africa, and of Asia. The former is appropriated to the Turks; the latter is free indiscriminately to all the nations of Europe. That which is used by the Turks, is cleaner and deeper than the other, where there is a necessity of fixing empty casks along the cables, in order to prevent their being damaged by the continued friction of a stony bottom. Though this precaution sheaths the cables from danger, the ships are in a perpetual risk of being lost, for their anchors, not having a sufficient hold, every strong gale of wind sets them a drift, and they often perish in the harbour; there being neither sailing room, nor holding ground to fix their anchors a-new. A French vessel was wrecked in this manner, the year before I arrived at Alexandria.

THE entrance of the new port is defended by two castles of a contemptible Turkish structure, and have nothing remarkable but their situation, and their being unworthy successors to edifices celebrated in history.

THAT called the grand Pharillo, (from Pharus, which signifies a light-house,) bears

on the middle of it a small tower, whose summit terminates in a lantern for a night light, but it is of no extensive service, the lamps being but poorly supplied. This castle has been built on the isle of Pharos, which it so occupies, that if there yet be any remains of that wonder of the world erected by Ptolomy, they are irrecoverably buried from the curious. I cannot speak more favourably of the other castle, called the little Pharillo, wherein there is not the least trace to be found of the celebrated library; which under the Ptolomies, was admired as the finest, not only then, but that had ever been in the world.

EACH of these two islands is joined to the main land, by a mole: that of the isle of Pharos is very long, it appeared to me to be three thousand feet in length, and to have been made partly of bricks, and partly of free-stone. It was vaulted all along, the molds of its arches are in the Gothic taste. Water can run underneath, in which it resembles the remains of the Mole at Puzzoli, which is commonly given for the bridge of Caligula. It is no way probable that either the Saracens or the Turks

were the inventors; but that finding the mole in ruins, they have so disfigured it with their tasteless repairs, that there remaineth not a feature of beautiful antiquity.

THE mole that leads to the little Pharillo has nothing remarkable but two zig-zags, which may serve for its defence.

THE Pharillos and their moles, the one on the right, the other on the left hand of the port, conduct us a-shore almost before we are aware of being at land. I think it not amiss to give travellers this caution, that precisely at the entrance of the port, they must pass by rocks, some of which are under, and others above the water, keep clear of them by all means; therefore take one of the Turkish pilots, who are there especially appointed to take charge of strange vessels. They sail out in boats to meet all they descry making towards the port. It would be an imprudent œconomy to decline employing one of them; by the help of whose experience, you will come not only safe into the harbour, but also to the properest place for casting anchor with the other ships, which are also counter-anchor-

ed along the extensive mole, as the deepest place to ride in with safety.

From thence opens a most beautiful prospect of antique and modern monuments, presenting themselves on every side. The little Pharillo being passed, a range of towers is discovered, connected one to the other, by the ruins of a thick wall. A single obelisk erect, is observed through a part where the wall is broken down; at another turning, the towers are perceived anew, but in a seemingly greater distance. The modern Alexandria, with her spires, next meet the view; and above the city, but afar off, soars the column of Pompey, a most aspiring and majestic monument. Here also are seen hills of an ashy complexion, intermixed with other towers. In fine, the prospect is closed by a large square building, which is used as a magazine for powder, and joins to the great mole.

As soon as we had landed, we traversed the new city in quest of the obelisk, which we reached, by climbing over ruined walls, from whence, through a tower built of stone, there is free access to the foot of this

antique monument, which we had scarce approached, when we espied another almost buried by its side.

THE obelisk that is standing, and called even now the Obelisk of Cleopatra, intimates that this is the place where that queen's palace stood, known likewise by the name of Cæsar's Palace. But as there are no remains of that superb edifice to animadvert on, I shall confine myself to the obelisk, which is situated almost mid-way, between the city, and the little Pharillo. Its basis, of which a part is sunk, rises twenty feet higher than the level of the sea; between this monument and the port, runs a thick wall, flanked on each side of the obelisk by a great tower, but this wall has suffered so much, that it is not now higher than the basis of the obelisk. The interior side of the wall is but ten feet distant from the obelisk, the exterior but four or five from the sea. The front of it far into the port, is filled with a great number of wrecks of columns, frizes, and other pieces of architecture, that must have been part of some pompous edifice: they are of different sorts of marble. On the land side,

there is behind the obelisk a pretty large plain, the ground whereof, from having been so often raked up, looks as if it had all passed through a sieve. Grass grows scantily here and there, and of so perishable a texture, that it soon withers. The obelisk consists of only one piece of granite marble. There are but two of its faces well preserved; on the two others, we can scarce see the hieroglyphics with which they were formerly covered.

THE fallen obelisk seems to have been broken; from what can be decyphered of its hieroglyphics, one would incline to think, that it contained the same figures, and in the same order, with those of the standing one.

SINCE the garrison forbids any curious visits to the little Pharillo, let us content ourselves with taking a view of those huge towers, joined together by such thick walls: they formed the circumference of antient Alexandria. These towers which appear like bulwarks, are not all of equal dimensions, of a like figure, or of the same structure; some are round, others square, ma-

ny are of an elliptic figure; some of the last are observed to be cut in one of their sides be a strait line; they differ also in their interior parts; some of them have a double wall, and at the entrance a winding stair-case, which mounts to the top of the tower. There is no other way to get into the others, but through a hole on the top of them with the help of a ladder. In general, the entrances of these towers are very narrow, and lead to the inside of the wall that connects them with the other; their different stories are so many vaults, supported in some by one column, in others by several. The embrasures on those bulwarks are narrow, and widen inwards, they are not unlike those of several old castles in England. Though not a well is now to be seen in those towers, we are not therefore to conclude, that they had none formerly, which from their having been neglected, were filled with rubbish in a series of time. The architecture of those towers which are built of free-stone, is very clumsy on the lowest part, all around at certain intervals are seen, shapes of columns of different sorts of marble, and so

placed, that seen from far, they look like cannons, placed and pointed through their embrasures. The walls which connect the towers, and jointly with them form the circumference of the city, are not throughout of the same breadth or height, or of a similar structure, some of them are twenty feet thick, others more, others less; their height is from thirty to forty feet, within side of them there is an alley in the same taste of that to be seen in Aurelian's palace at Rome. The towers, as well as the walls, as far as can be seen of them, are much damaged, and in some places totally ruined.

HAVING made the tour of the old city, let us examine what it contains worthy of curiosity; scarce any thing, it being now a general heap of ruins, except a few mosques, churches, gardens, and some cisterns; the last are kept in pretty good order, to supply water to the new city.

WE have already taken a view of the obelisk of Cleopatra, and its situation; let us now see the two churches of St. Mark, and St. Catherine, which are in its neigh-

bourhood; they both belong to Christians, and are served by Grecian and Coptic priests; they are so like each other, that one description will serve for the two; they have not an article respectable but their name; they are so gloomy, so filthy, and full of lamps, that one would deem them to be rather places of Pagan worship, than temples where the true God is adored. In that of St. Mark, there is an old wooden chair, which (as is there said) belonged to Him: be that as it may, I can aver, that Evangelist is infinitely better lodged at Venice, than in Alexandria. In St. Catherine's there is exhibited with great devotion a piece of column, on which they say her head was cut off, and some red spots thereon, they bigotedly assert are drops of her blood. Not far from the church is St. Catherine's butt, which is a rising ground formed from the ruins of the city; there is another of the same kind and bulk; they have been so often raked and examined, that they are now but a meer heap of dust; before I quitted the city, I cast my eye on a few shafts of columns, which are still standing on the road that

leads to the gate of Rosetta; there are about half a dozen, and give no other information, than that this long street had porticos on both sides, where people might walk near the houses sheltered from the weather.

I NEXT continued my way through the gate of Rosetta, to view that master-piece of art, commonly called the Column of Pompey; it is placed on an eminence that commands two beautiful prospects; the one of Alexandria, the other of the low country, that stretches along the banks of the Nile, and surrounds the canal cut above the gate of Rosetta, in order to convey the water of the Nile to Alexandria. This column is probably the greatest, and most magnificent that has ever been executed in the Corinthian order. The body is of one entire piece of granite marble, the pedestal is of a grey stone not unlike a flint for hardness and grain. The foundation on which the pedestal and columns are raised, is open on one side, which happened according to the tradition of the country, in the following manner. An Arabian dug

a hole under the foundation, in which he put a box of gun-powder, in order to blow up the column, and thereby to become master of the immense treasure he imagined was buried underneath. Unfortunately for him, but happily for the curious, he was a bad engineer; his enterprize failed him, for his mine being sprung, only displaced four stones, which making but one part of the foundation, the other three remained unhurt. The only advantage resulting thence is, that the curious have ever since had an opportunity of seeing what stones the foundation was made of; I observed there, one piece of white oriental marble, full of conspicuous hieroglyphics; another piece that has not started from its place, but is uncovered, is a yellow marble of Sicily, spotted with red, its hieroglyphics are effaced; a piece of small column is also employed in this foundation, with other pieces of marble, that have nothing peculiarly remarkable; the part of the foundation that was carried away leaves a void space of three feet at most under the pedestal. The middle, as well

as the three other sides, enjoy their original solidity.

ALL round the column of Pompey, the prospect of a naked country fatigues the eye; about a quarter of a league's distance are the catacombs, being a long subterraneous alley containing nothing particular, and of the same breadth with those in Naples.

OUR next excursion was to Cleopatra's canal, which supplies Alexandria throughout the year with fresh water. In our way thither, from the hill we had been on, through a plain where capers grow, we traversed a forest of date-trees; their fertility is owing to the neighbourhood of the canal, from which, through smaller channels water is conveyed to them; the banks of the canal are shaded by different sorts of trees, and occasionally inhabited by flying camps of wild Arabians; there they feed their flocks, and are miserably poor in regard to every thing else. The original intent of cutting this canal, as history informs us, was to facilitate commerce; between Grand Cairo and Alexandria; by the advantage of navigating thereon, the

merchants' property was insured from the danger of crossing the Bogas, which is the mouth of the Nile; its other use we have mentioned above. It is now from the wretched plight of the people there, in a very decayed condition, almost choaked in many parts, scarce furnishing water enough for the reservoirs of Alexandria. A space inclosed with walls is the beginning of the aqueduct, which can be traced along the plain, even to Alexandria; for though it be under ground, there are vents at certain intervals, which mark its course to the reservoirs, or cisterns, which are in the parts we saw of Antient Alexandria. When she flourished, there were cisterns and reservoirs under every part of the city, there now remain but half a dozen, in bad order; it would be superfluous to give a minute description of them, and I shall only observe, that their vaults are made of brick, and covered with a substance impenetrable to water, like that on the walls of the piscennari, or reservoirs at Baiaë, and at Rome; in the warm baths of several emperors, the greater number of the columns by which these vaults are supported,

are of different sorts, and mostly of the Gothic, or rather of the Saracen taste, which is to be accounted for in the same manner, as we have accounted for the architecture of the great mole. Of all the reservoirs now used, that next the gate of Rosetta, preserves its water the longest; which may probably be ascribed to its position, being lower than that of the others; when any of them are near empty, they are carefully cleaned against the swelling of the Nile. These reservoirs cannot let out all their water, but are entirely emptied by chain-pumps. Water is sent to the new city in vessels, on the backs of camels or asses.

WE have but one article more of Antient Alexandria to treat of, which is the gate of Rosetta, and another, by which people come from the new city to the antient, through a spacious area belonging to the latter; these two gates are built in the same taste with the wall and castles that surround the city. That of Rosetta has little towers at each angle; the other, which is nearer to the bulwark, has but a plain opening through the wall,

its folding doors are made of timber, and covered with plates of iron extremely rusty.

LET us now take a turn to the old port, where we shall find some remains belonging to Antient Alexandria, or at least to its suburbs. The old port, alias the port of Africa, has on one side the great Pharillo, which is its defence there, as well as that of the new port. Opposite to the great Pharillo, and the neck of land which forms the old port, there is a small castle which defends the port on that side; and in front, a part of the new city joins with the old.

Now let us view the sepulchral grottoes: they begin where the ruins of the antient city end, and continue to a great distance along the sea shore; they are cut in the rocks, sometimes one above another, sometimes in the same line, according as the situation of the place permitted. Avarice, or hopes of finding something valuable, hath opened them all: I did not observe one shut, nor could see any thing in them. In general, they are large enough to hold two bodies laid beside one another,

and somewhat longer than the common standard of man; their height depends on the nature of the rock; violence has been used in opening most of them; what remains of them entire, is adorned neither with sculpture nor painting, it is too barren a subject to dwell any longer on; let us rather feast our eyes on those agreeable retreats formed by the indenting of the shore; where, in a retired and breezy situation, the warm votaries of pleasure indulged, and when they chose, unseen themselves, could see every thing that passed in the port. Some rocks that advanced farther into the sea than others, afforded enchanting scenes; the natural grotts they had formed, invited the sculptor with his chisel to come and give a finishing hand, and in rocks to execute alcoves of delight; several subsist, the benches are so managed, that you can sit quite dry, and bathe when you please; the water of the sea flowing to a sufficient depth on the bottom of the grotts; without, there are little landing places, whither they came in boats, that were there sheltered from any sudden gusts that might arise. When they had a mind

to enjoy a view of the port, they readily found on the rocks, places where they sat screened from the sun.

ABOUT thirty or forty paces from the shore, and opposite to the point of the peninsula which forms the port, is a subterraneous monument, which the people call a Temple; the entrance to it is through a small opening, on the slope of a rising ground, that bounds the port on that side; we went in, having previously provided flambeaus to light us, and were obliged to walk stooping through a very low alley for twenty paces; then we reached a pretty large and square salon, the upper part is a cieling, and smooth, as are also the four sides; the floor is full of sand, of the ordure of bats, and animals that frequent it; this is not the temple: to which one must pass through another alley, where something more elegant recompences our trouble; a round figure, whose top is cut in shape of a vault. It has four doors opposite one to the other, each of them is ornamented with an architrave, cornice, and a fronton with a crescent over it; but one of the doors is the entrance, the other three

form each a kind of niche, that descend a great deal lower than this subterraneous temple, are thriftily scooped out of the rock, and large enough to contain a dead body; this miscalled temple must have been the burying-place of some great lord, or perhaps some royal family; there is no inscription, engraving, or token of any kind, to give the least information. An alley indeed, which leads off from this, inclines us to conclude, that farther on there may be another subterraneous edifice of the same nature; and so at certain distances perhaps a continuation; but the passages being stopped up, through time and negligence, they are now inaccessible, as will be probably in a few years, the one I speak of.

As soon as we had emerged, and ascended to the top of the same rock, we saw large dykes, but could neither learn what use they had been intended for, nor at what time made; they are cut perpendicularly from top to bottom, are about forty feet deep, fifty long, and twenty wide; their sides are smooth, but their bottoms are so full of sand, that it is with difficulty one

can discover the top of a canal, which in some of those dykes seems to lead, perhaps to some such subterraneous edifice as the one I have seen.



New Alexandria

MAY be justly looked on as a poor orphan, who has no other inheritance but the respectable name of its father. The ancient city's wide extent is contracted in the new, to a small neck of land between the two ports. The most superb of her temples are dwindled into inconsiderable mosques; her most magnificent palaces are degraded into dwelling-houses, of a very paultry structure; the imperial residence is debased into a prison for slaves. A once wealthy and numerous people are now misrepresented by a few interested strangers, and a collection of wretches who live in fordid dependence. A mart formerly so celebrated for its extensive commerce, is now decayed to a meer landing place: Alas! it cannot be compar-

ed to the phœnix, that from its ashes springs anew into life; no, it is a poor crawling insect, the spawn of filth, and infected by the Alcoran; such is the fallen Alexandria of our days, and therefore undeserving a formal description.

FROM what has preceded, the port and the manner of entering it are known; the city reached, travellers land at the custom-house, and pay some trifling duty for the conveniencies they carry with them.

DURING my three weeks stay at Alexandria, in excursionary walks, I visited the following places but a few leagues distant from it.

THE castle of Bokkier, situated on a peak of land that advances into the sea, between the city of Alexandria, and the western mouth of the Nile.

THE city and castle of Rosetta, which lie to the right of those who enter the river by that mouth.

THE village of Deruth, on the banks of the Nile, to the south of Rosetta, and the east of Alexandria.

THE mosque of Scheck-Gadder on the

bank of the Nile, on the right hand of its entrance.

THE mosque of Carullo-Merefel.

ANOTHER mosque four leagues to the southward of Rosetta.

ALL these places are situated in the Delta, or in its neighbourhood, by which is designed that part of lower Egypt, enclosed by the Mediterranean, and the two arms of the river Nilus, which begin their separation at Cairo; and the origin of this name is from the resemblance of the said enclosure, to the triangular figure of the Grecian letter Δ .



New Cairo.

I Arrived at Grand Cairo on the 7th of July, 1737. This capital of Egypt, which is called plainly Cairo, and by the Arabians Maffer, is eastward of the Nile, a little above the place where the river splits to form the Delta. It is divided into two cities, the one called Old Cairo, the other Grand Cairo.

THERE have been already so many descriptions published of this city, and its appendages, that I shall remark but on a few particulars, which perhaps may not be thought unworthy of attention.

THE first relates to the annual ceremony of cutting the dyke of the canal, which in the time of the swelling of the Nile, is to convey its waters to Grand Cairo. This canal, cut into the country, looks like a neglected fosse; when it enters the city, it appears of more consequence, in flowing by houses that adorn its banks. It is not very broad either in country or city, and where the Nile runs into it, it has but from 15 to 20 feet in breadth.

AS soon as the waters of the Nile begin to rise, they close the mouth of the canal with a dyke of earth, on which is fixed a signal, that is to notify the opening of this and all other canals in the kingdom.

ON the appointed day, the Bashaw and his beys, with a numerous retinue, assist at the ceremony of opening the dyke; they range themselves under a pavillion of no great elegance near the place. The E-

gyptians and the Jews are employed to cut the dyke, while some of the rabble in a paultry skiff, throw nuts, melons, &c. into the water, as it enters the canal; the Bashaw orders some parats to be thrown in, and a starved firework, consisting of about twenty rockets to be played off; those rejoicings so much exaggerated by travellers, can boast of little more than what may be seen at a village wedding; the only object there to excite curiosity, is the retinue of the great, which in their way, has a kind of magnificence.

THE people on these occasions commit a thousand follies, to witness their joy for the swelling of the Nile, which insures to them a plentiful harvest. The most lascivious dances are not the most offensive expressions of their alacrity; for there is hardly a year but some lives are lost in those tumultuous rejoicings.

THE next observations I have to make, are on the famous well of Joseph; its mouth is eighteen feet broad, twenty-four long, its depth is two hundred and seventy-six, from the upper wheel to the bottom of the water, at one hundred and forty-six

feet depth is a basin, up to which the water is brought from the bottom, by the means of a second wheel, with a chain of earthen pitchers; this repository is somewhat lower than the middle of the well, for downwards after there are but one hundred and thirty feet; this well is elegantly cut in a rock, and with so much art, that the rock is a rampart to the descending path down its side. From space to space, there are windows contrived to let in light; by this path the oxen are led down, which put the second wheel in play; from whence, down to the very bottom, is a like descent, with this difference indeed, that it is not so wide as the upper one, having but four feet in breadth, and six in height, moreover there is no parapet on its side, it is covered all the way, which renders the going down very dangerous; at the end of the descent is a basin, or a spring of water, about nine or ten feet deep, the taste is brackish; it is never drunk but in a siege, or some other pressing necessity.

LASTLY, I shall observe, that their commerce, though infinitely greater formerly, than it is at present, is yet in my opi-

nion, not in so abject a way, as to pronounce it totally unworthy of the curious traveller's inquiry.



Old Cairo.

THIS antient city is situated on the bank of the canal that divides the isle of Rhoda from the main land; its length, to reckon from the machine which raises the water of the aqueduct, unto the Bafar, is a quarter of a French league; its breadth is five hundred common paces; the rest is very unequal, and its extremities terminate in single houses.

THE majority of its buildings (the abodes of working folks excepted) are pleasure-houses, whither repair the distinguished inhabitants of Cairo to divert themselves, when the waters of the Nile are at the highest pitch. There are many gardens, the date trees and vines occupy a great deal of ground.

AT old Cairo there are half a dozen mosques, with minarets tantamount, to

our spires, with other places of worship for different believers; in one of the Coptic churches there is a grot, in which tradition reports the Virgin Mary rested from the labours of her retreat into Egypt: the fathers of the Holy-land pay annually a certain sum, for the privilege of saying mass whenever they please in the said grotto.

THE water-house is a work of the Saracens; there are in it four mills, with chains of earthen pots; oxen are used to put them in motion, in order to draw up water to the aqueduct, which conveys it to Grand Cairo.

ONE of the most considerable buildings, is Joseph's granary, it covers a large space of ground, and is incircled by a wall; there is deposited all the tributary corn paid to the Grand Signior, by the different cantons of Egypt; there is nothing remarkable or antique in it.

THE pleasure-houses of the great, answer but poorly to the title; they consist of large salons, clumsily arranged, within which are three or four divans, or so many little holes that form a kind of labyrinth,

from which no other advantage accrues, than that the owner can commodiously see his wives and slaves, without any of their knowing what another is doing.

NOTHING agreeable is to be seen in the environs of Grand Cairo, on the eastern side; there are but barren hills, that seem to have been heaps of ashes and ruins.

THE city may be said to be entirely open, having but a door to the east, and a fragment of a wall since the time of the Saracens.

THE canal cut between Grand Cairo and the isle of Rhodda is of the greatest antiquity; it begins at the Bafar, and ends near the water-house; it may be walked over without wetting one's foot, when the waters of the Nile are low, but when the river is full, it is navigable by small craft. It is two hundred common paces broad, and a quarter of a French league in length.

THERE is, I believe, a quarter of a league from Old to Grand Cairo; and half a league from Old Cairo to Boulace, which, by its vicinity to Grand Cairo, serves it as

a kind of magazine. It is situated eastward of the Nile, and northward of the canal, which, as before observed, conveys the water from the Nile to Grand Cairo.

IN the middle of the river, between Old Cairo, and Gize, is the isle of Rhodda, which is near as long as Old Cairo, when its northern point is not overflowed, for during the inundation, it loses a quarter of its extent. It may be about five hundred paces broad in the middle, its northern extremity terminates in a point, and the front of the Mokkias stretches quite across its southern extremity; the island is almost entirely laid out in gardens; its only inhabitants are gardeners, and working men, necessary to assist them with their labour.

THE Mokkias, or Mikkias, is its chief ornament, and was erected by the Saracens.

IT derives its name from its use, for Mokkias signifies measure; and one can effectively observe every day the rise or fall of the waters of the Nile, by the means of its graduated column; by its guidance, the public criers proclaim the events in ei-

ther sense, at different hours through the city. Its basin is in a square tower, surrounded by a gallery, has several windows, and is vaulted in the Arabian taste. Over the entrance of the Mokkias is an Arabian inscription, which was thus interpreted to me:

The entrance to this place witnesseth, that there is no other God, but one God; and Mahomet is the envoy of that God.

BESIDE the Mokkias, but still in the same range of buildings, is a great mosque, and close to the mosque, westward, are stairs to go down to the water, on these stairs the people make their observations; for the Mokkias is kept shut, and it is no easy matter to get it opened. The remainder of the buildings adjoining to the Mokkias is for the use of its attendants, and those of the mosque.

SOME pretend, that it was on this island Moses had been exposed by his mother, and saved by the daughter of Pharaoh; which opinion, for the following reasons, may be objected to; 1st, The isle of Rhod-

da has not always been, what it now is; which is evident from the canal that separates it from Old Cairo; 2d, The city of Memphis was situate on the other side of the Nile, and there is no mention made in Scripture, that Pharaoh's daughter had crossed the river.

IN order to continue uninterruptedly the description of Grand Cairo, and its dependencies; let us now consider Gize, which I have already mentioned; it is a pretty large village, on the western banks of the Nile, opposite to Old Cairo, and the isle of Rhodda; it is built of bricks and mud; the only ornaments it can boast are four or five minarets of mosques, and some date trees.

IF certain authors are to be credited, the city of Memphis formerly stood where the village of Gize now is; and I confess, this opinion is not devoid of probability, though in strictly examining this opinion, considerable abatements must be made of the grandeur of that ancient capital of Egypt; or we must greatly exaggerate the plains in its neighbourhood: for Gize now covers but half the space Old Cairo occupies;

and the environing plains never escape the overflowings of the Nile. Is it then readily to be believed, that so great, so famous a city as Memphis, should have been built in a place subject to water for one half of the year; or if so, that the antient authors would have omitted so particular a circumstance?

HALF a league southward of Old Cairo is the great mosque of Atter-Ennabi, built on a point of the eastern bank of the Nile. The Mahometants hold it in great veneration, from a tradition, that their first calif Omar, on arriving in that place, the mosque is now raised to his honour, left there the impression of his foot in marble. There is nothing extraordinary within or without, save a corridor of antique columns, so badly arranged, that in many places the capitals turned upside down, serve for pedestals, and the pedestals reciprocally for capitals.

DEIR-ETUN is a village very near the mosque of Atter-Ennabi on the south side; in it there is a mosque, and a convent of Coptic Christians, the houses are very mean, and built mostly of mud; one end touches

on the Nile, not much above a league distance from it: the principal ornament of this, and of most of the other villages are the date trees, that grow in great quantities near them. According to some interpretations, Deir-Etun signifies a convent of figs; on this occasion I do not think it improper to remark, that several sorts of figs grow in Egypt, but though they differ in general one from the other, there is one more specifically different, I mean that which grows on the sycamore, called in Arabic, Giomez. Zacharias was perched on one of these trees, to see our Saviour's entry into Jerusalem. This sycamore is about the height of a beech-tree, and bears its fruit in a manner entirely different from all the others, on its trunk, where from a cluster of little buds in a branch of grapes' form, the fruit appears, and grows not unlike to it; the tree is an ever-green, and produces fruit several times in the year, without being bound to fixed periods; for I have seen some sycamores have fruit two months after the others; in figure and flavour it resembles the true fig, but is inferior in its taste, which has a nauseating

sweetness; its colour is yellow, inclining to that of the oker, shaded with a flesh colour; it is on the inside figured like common figs, but its colour is blackish, spotted with yellow; this sort of tree is pretty common in Egypt: the people in general eat its fruit, and deem it a high regale when they have a slice of bread, a couple of the figs, of those sycamores, and a pitcher full of the Nile water.

I SHALL annex some other remarks I made during my stay at Cairo, and in its environs. To wit, their common manner of hatching chickens, is by the means of an oven artfully contrived for that purpose. They thresh their rice with a sledge drawn by oxen, in which kneels the man that drives them, while another carries off the straw, in order to separate it from the grain that remains underneath; before the rice undergoes this operation, it is spread circularly, and leaves an empty space in the middle of the layer. There come frequently to Cairo, a sort of barges on the Nile, carrying senna from Essenay, they are called by the country people Merkee, I em-

barked on board one of them to go up the Nile from Cairo.

THE grasshopper, as well as the *dareira*, are remarkable; the former especially for its hieroglyphical front, their body is all over green, excepting a yellow circle that goes round their head, and terminates at the eyes; in length they are about two inches, and the twenty-sixth part of one, Danish measure. This insect has two upper wings, pretty solid, and green like the rest of the body, save a little white spot upon each, it expands these wings like two great sails, which take in the driving gale; it hath also two under wings, in substance not unlike to a light transparent stuff, and in figure to a spider's web, which serves her the same way as the latin sails do the vessels, along whose sides they are fixed; when this insect stops, she anchors, by closely folding these, her check wings, under the upper. The *dareira* is a kind of gnat, with which in the evening the water is almost covered; I believe them to be the foodful object of the bats pursuit on the Nile.

THEY have a particular kind of float-

boat to ferry over the Nile, made of large earthen pitchers tied closely together, and covered with palm-tree leaves; the man who steers, has commonly a cord hanging from his mouth, with which, as he sails, he fishes.

TAKE a view of Adam's fig-tree, vulgarly called Bananas, and of the beautiful cypress of Old Cairo, of what is now called Pharaoh's Hen, and believed to have been the ibis of the antients.

THE Casia Fistulata is to be met with every where in Egypt. I think it not amiss to enumerate some of their vessels, and other utensils for common domestic use. The bardakes are made some of white earth, others of a blackish; they are both half baked, in order that the water filtrating through the bottom, may be thereby clarified; the white are the better sort, because the water sooner cools in them than in the others; they cost more, it is true, but as two or three of them can be purchased for a parat, equivalent to two French sols, none but the poor would decline having them; they are covered on the top by

a straw bonnet, fashioned in a very particular manner.

THE water which is brought from the Nile, on camels, or asses, is poured into great jars, made of a baked and red earth; they are not armed with any varnish; but also purge the water of the Nile, which is very foul; its purification is forwarded by throwing in almonds, or peeled beans. They are thirty-two inches high, Persian measure, and in the mouth ten inches wide.

THE ewer, though grossly executed, is one of the best pieces of earthen ware in Egypt, where the whole consists in making a few wretched vessels and dishes; the workmen, being unacquainted with the use of varnish, are incapable of making any vessel that does not leak.

THEIR coffee-pots are well enough contrived, being of red copper tinned within and without; there are of different sizes, containing from one to twenty cups, always ready made, so that the traveller may pick and chuse; the cups from which they drink their coffee are used without dishes in general, except by those of high rank. The

Indian porcelain is that which is employed in this country.

THEIR lamps for common use, and the lanterns which they hang out on their festivals are from the inelegance of their make, no object of animadversion for the curious, but what follows really is.

INASMUCH as rain falls but very rarely in Egypt, the Author of nature hath in his infinite wisdom so disposed of things, that this defect of rain, is happily supplied by the river Nile's regularly overflowing every year. Though this effect be so generally known, it is strange how erroneously people have stroven to account, not only for the cause, but the manner also of cultivating the earth in consequence.

AUTHORS, who have undertaken to give descriptions of Egypt, have thought these articles so universally known, that they have scarce entered into any detail about them; satisfied in having said, that the fertility of the country derived solely from the annual inundation of the Nile, they advance no farther. Hence many people have been induced to think, that Egypt is a terrestrial paradise, that needs not

the trouble of ploughing, or even of sowing the earth; and where every thing springs up spontaneously, after the departure of the water. It is quite otherwise, and I would venture to assert, from what I have seen, that no country wants more the aid of agriculture than Egypt does, which is evinced by their many hydraulic machines to water the earth; and the plough which is in use near Gamasis, in upper Egypt.

THE Delta part, which is the most frequented, and the most cultivated, stands less in need of mechanical assistance; for there they only employ a number of mills, to raise and distribute the water to the different canals, which in the French language, are commonly called *watering canals*. The Delta has besides a natural advantage from the lowness of its situation, and being thereby more obvious to the overflow.

ABOVE Cairo, leathern vessels are sometimes made use of to pour water into the canals, as are also chaplet wheels, with a chain of pitchers, worked by oxen. Though these machines be not of masterly contri-

vance, yet they are sufficient to supply the quantities necessary to water the earth; let it be observed, that the dykes in general are in a very neglected state.

THE drought is sometimes so great, that the ground requires not only the benefit of the Nile's general inundation, but also, that when its waters begin to fall, they may be delayed from flowing off too fast; that by lying on, a sufficient time, the earth may be imbibed, and drenched therewith.

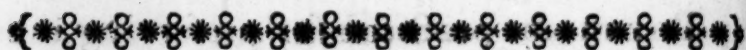
THIS necessity has for a long time put them on the research after means to stop, and preserve the waters for the exigencies of the earth; which was by the antient Egyptians done in so masterly a manner, that in their days, the country had a flourishing countenance, to the very feet of the mountains. But from the injuries of fire, and the different desolations this kingdom hath been afflicted with, all is fallen into such utter ruin, that if the most pressing urgencies of want did not compel the Arabians to work, in less than one century, Egypt would be reduced to as wretched a plight as that of little Barbary, joining to the ca-

taracts; where along the banks of the Nile, from twenty to thirty feet, is all the breadth of the tilled ground.

THE means practised for preserving the water, are dykes and canals, cut or dug in the places where the bank of the river is low, and is from thence conveyed to the mountains, across entire provinces, so that when the Nile rises, its waters enter into canals, by which it is conveyed to the inner parts of the country, proportionably as the river is high. When the Nile is at its highest pitch, and has diffused its waters abroad, great care is taken to delay them, that the land may have time to soak in a sufficient quantity. And it is for this end, that the dykes called Gisser are employed; they prevent the waters return, as long as deemed requisite, then the Gisser is cut to let the waters escape.

ALL the happiness and health of a province, depends on a just direction of the canals, but as every one partially strives to make the most they can of them, even to the Bey of Gize, who gets more than five hundred purses by them; they are in many places fallen, wherefore the

fertility of the country diminishes in proportion.



The Pyramids of Egypt.

BEFORE I leave Cairo and its environs, I think it incumbent on me to say something of those monuments, foremost objects of the curiosity of travellers in Egypt; I mean the pyramids, formerly reckoned among the seven wonders of the world; and are to this day matter of admiration, from Cairo to Meduun.

THOSE superb monuments are to be met with but in Egypt, for the one at Rome, wherein C. Cestius is entombed, is but a meer imitation, and of dimension much inferior to the smallest in Egypt, therefore deserves not to be quoted as an exception to our general position above. Another is, that pyramids are to be seen but from Cairo to Meduun; certain writers have asserted, that there are some in upper Egypt; but either they have been imposed on by false memoirs, or would vainly insinuate,

that they penerated into parts, no other person had attempted, and have there discovered things unknown to the world beside.

THE pyramids are not built on the plains, but on the rocks, at the feet of the high mountains that accompany the Nile in its course, and divide Egypt from Lybia.

THEY were all built for the same purpose, which was, to serve for burying places, but their architecture, as well exterior, as interior, differs greatly for disposition, matter, and size.

SOME are opened, others ruined; the greatest number shut: there is not one that hath not been damaged one way or other. It is obvious that they have not been all erected at the same time, which can be proved, from the prodigious quantity of materials necessary for their structure. The perfection remarkable in the last fabricated is another proof; for great is their superiority over the first, both as to size and magnificence. This may be positively asserted of them, that their structure is of the most remote antiquity, and

anterior to the most ancient historians, whose writings have come down to us. What these authors have transmitted to us, relative to the construction of the pyramids, is founded on traditions rather fabulous than probable. One article concerning the pyramids, is as wonderful as true; that although they now subsist, the epoch of their being built was unknown, when even the first Grecian philosophers travelled in Egypt.

THAT the most antient pyramids have been raised at the same time the tower of Babel was, is a bold surmise; but the pyramids have to boast that they still subsist, whereas scarce any remains of the antient tower are to be found.

IT seems probable to me, that the origin of pyramids, hath been prior to that of hieroglyphics. The meaning of their characters had been lost, even in the time that the Persians conquered Egypt, therefore the fixed epoch of the pyramids is of so remote antiquity, that vulgar chronology cannot grasp it.

I do not think my supposition, that the pyramids, even the last built, were long

before the use of hieroglyphics, is without foundation. Thus I support it; is it to be believed, that the Egyptians would have left those superb monuments without the least hieroglyphical inscription, which they were so lavish of, on any considerable building? Not one is to be seen within, nor without the pyramids; not even in the ruins of the temples, of the second and third pyramids: is it not then probable, that the origin of pyramids preceded that of hieroglyphics, notwithstanding their having been looked on as the first characters made use of in Egypt?

A TRADITION prevails amongst the present inhabitants of Egypt, that it had formerly been peopled by a race of giants; by whom have been raised the pyramids, spacious palaces, and temples whose remains are the objects of our present admiration.

THIS fable scarce deserves a refutation, the falsity of it being so obvious; but however, in order to defeat totally whatever might be advanced in its favour; I observe, that if the country had been formerly peopled by giants, the entrance to the grottoes, caverns, or from whence the

stones have been brought for the edifices, should have been larger than they are; that the doors of the buildings in question, and which now subsist, should have been also higher and wider, that the giants might easily have gone in, and come out: that the channels or conduits of the pyramids which are so narrow, that a common man now lying on his belly, could scarce drag himself forwards, would have been entirely unequal to the supposed gigantic stature.

MOREOVER, no other thing gives us a juster idea of the stature of men in those days than the urn, or the sarcophagus, which is to be seen in the greatest, and the last pyramid, the nearest to Cairo. This existing and undeniable proof, destroys all ideas relative to the giants. It fixes the stature of the prince's body for whom it had been erected, and from the channels of this pyramid we easily conclude, that the workmen there were not of greater bulk than the prince, for their inlets and outlets are scarcely sufficient for admission of the present size of men.

THE principal pyramids are to the east

south-east of Gize, a village situated on the western bank of the Nile, as has been heretofore remarked, and as several authors have pretended, that in the same place Memphis had been; that is the reason, why the neighbouring ones are called the Pyramids of Memphis.

THERE are four of them that peculiarly merit the attention of the curious; for although there be seven or eight in the neighbourhood, they are nothing in comparison with the former, especially since they have been opened, and almost entirely demolished. The four principal ones are almost on a diagonal line, and distant one from the other, about four hundred paces; their four faces answer exactly to the four cardinal points, the north, the south, the east, and the west.

THE two most northern are the most considerable, and are in perpendicular height five hundred feet; the two others are less, but contain some particularities, which are the motive of their being examined, and in consequence admired.

THE pyramids are founded upon rocks, at the foot of the mountains, which had

not originally been all over even, but have since been made so by the help of the chisel, as is yet discoverable in many parts of it; this artificial level has a slope on the north side, and on the east, by means of which, favourable assistances were raised for the commodious conveyance of materials necessary for the pyramids. This plain is about fourscore perpendicular feet high, above the horizon of the lands, which are subject to the overflowing of the Nile; it is a Danish league in circumference.

ALTHOUGH this plain be on a continued rock, it is almost covered by a flying sand, blown by the wind from off the high mountains in the neighbourhood; in this sand, a number of shells and petrified oysters are found, which is the more surprising, because the Nile never rises so high as to overflow this plain, and if it ever had, it could not be concluded the cause of this extraordinary effect, because that no such substances are wasted by it in all its course. There is moreover another question to be made; from whence are come those shells of a like sort to be found on

the very pyramids; Mr. Scheuezzzer, in my opinion, would be puzzled to conjecture them to be the remains of the universal deluge: in which case, he would be obliged to prove, that the pyramids were to resist so tremendous a force, as that of the deluge; on reflexion, it must appear to him too great a miracle. In this place also are found some of those celebrated flint stones, which for the singularity of their colours, are in far greater estimation than agate, and of which at Cairo, tobacco-boxes and hafts for knives are made.

THE most northern of those great pyramids, is the only one that is open, and as it is the first we meet, I shall by it begin my intended description; after which, I shall examine whatever is remarkable in the others.

THE figure of pyramids is so generally known, that it would be superfluous to give a description of them here. I shall only observe by the way, that it is the most solid figure can be given to a pile of building. There is no way to destroy it, unless begun above; it is fixed on too firm a foundation, to attack it there; and who-

ever should attempt, would find as much difficulty to execute its overthrow, as there had been to erect it. One must be very near to the northern pyramid, in order to descry the extent of this enormous mass. It is like all the others, whether great or small, without any artificial foundation. Nature has furnished one in the rock, which is strong enough to support this weight, which is really immense. The outside of the pyramid is for the most part of square stones, hewn from a rock, situate along the banks of the Nile, wherein, to this day, the grottoes are seen, from whence the stones have been taken; the size of the squares of these stones is not equal; they all have a prismatic figure. The architect had them all cut in that manner, that they might be placed one on top of the other, and as it were to be cemented together; one might incline to think that their several ranks ought to have formed as it were so many degrees—but it is quite otherwise—for the architect's attention was full of the pyramidal figure, and did not trouble itself about the regularity of degrees.

THESE stones are not near so hard as

might be imagined, from their having subsisted so long; they owe their preservation to the climate they are in, which is not subject to frequent rains. But notwithstanding this advantage, they are observed to be worm eaten, chiefly indeed on the North side; wherefore they are far from being so hard as the stones of Breme, or Bentheim. The different exterior courses of these stones are joined to each other by their own weight, without lime, lead, or the binding of any sort of metal. But in regard to the body of the pyramid, which is full of irregular stones, they were obliged to use a mortar, which is apparent at the entrance of the second channel of the first pyramid, which has been forcibly opened; I perceived not the least mark to prove that it had been covered with marble; for although some travellers have conjectured so, from seeing the summit of the second pyramid covered with granite; there is by so much the less reason to credit this surmise, that on the sides there are not the least remains of granite or marble to be found, and it would have been impossible to have carried it so entirely away,

as to leave not a fragment behind: it is true, that about this pyramid and others, many scraps of granite and white marble are to be seen, but they do not lead to a proof that the pyramids were covered therewith; such materials were used on the inside of the pyramid, and of temples that stood without; it is therefore more natural to presume, that those pieces are the remains of those stones, when worked on to be employed, or of the ruins of the temples, rather than pieces of marble that had been torn off by force from the covering of the pyramids.

THE one I now describe, is three hours journey from Old Cairo; the way to go to it is, to embark on the Nile, when its waters are low, near the isle of Rhodda, in order to be carried to Gize, which is not distant above a musket shot, the remaining part is by land, but when the waters of the Nile are out, and in their greatest swell, they go in a bark from old Cairo, to the rock on which the pyramids are built.

ITS entrance is on the north side; by its four angles we easily know, that its lowest stones are the first angular and fundamen-

tal ones, but from thence upward to the middle, the wind has formed a glacis of sand, which is so high on the north side, that it facilitates the way to the entrance of the pyramid.

THE entrance of this, as well as of all the others, has been made under the basis of the moulding of the pyramid, above 48 feet above the horizon, and inclining more to the east than to the west; they have cut to the slope of the pyramid, in order to discover it; the architrave of the first channel, by which this opening commences, seems to promise a portal; but having cut on, without finding any thing behind it but stones, like those employed in building the pyramid, the project of searching for any other opening, besides that already discovered, was laid aside.

THIS opening leads successively to five different channels, or conduits; which, although they run above, below, and horizontally, tend all to the south, terminate in two chambers, the one in the middle of the pyramid, the other beneath.

ALL, except the fourth, have pretty near the same dimensions, to wit, three.

feet and a half square. They are constructed alike, and covered on their four sides with great pieces of white marble, so smooth, that there would be no going on them, without the artifice employed, and even as matters are now, that we find from each step little holes cut for the fixing of the feet, it is troublesome enough to get on, and whoever makes a false step, inevitably relapses to the place he began from.

It is said, that they all have been shut up, and filled with large square stones, thrown into them after the work had been finished. It is certainly true, that the end of the second has been blocked up; for there are two square pieces of marble, which debar all communication with the first. But to speak the genuine truth, its entrance is not large enough to admit a man, and therefore less so to receive so great a quantity of large stones, as must have been requisite to fill up the other channels.

WHEN the two first are passed, a resting-place is met, which has on the right hand an opening for a small channel or well, wherein, except another little resting-place,

only bats are to be found; after having suffered a great deal from them, there is the farther great disappointment of not seeing its issue, on account of the sand it is choaked with.

FROM the first mentioned resting-place, the third channel leads to a chamber not very large, half filled with stones taken from the wall on the right hand, to open there another channel, which terminates in a niche not far from it; it is vaulted ridge-wise, and is all over inlaid with granite, that had formerly its polish, but is now quite blackened, by the smoke of the flambeaus of its visitors.

AFTER having returned by the same road, the next task is to climb up to the fourth channel; along its sides are raised ways, it is very high, and vaulted in a ridge like a form.

THE fifth conducts to the superiour chamber; before one comes thither, in the middle of the canal, somewhat higher than it, but not larger, is a small apartment. On each side an incision is made in the stone, thereby perhaps to throw in all those that were intended to close up the entrance of

the chamber, which, like the other, is covered with granite.

ON the left side is a large urn, or, to speak more properly, a sarcophagus of granite, which has but the plain figure of a parallel opaqued, without any other ornament; all that can be said of it is, that it is a piece well hollowed, and sounds like a bell when struck with a key.

NORTHWARD of the Sarcophagus, a pretty deep hole is perceived, and made since the pyramid has been finished. The reason is not known; yet one may not improbably surmise, that there had been a cavity underneath; for it appears as if the pavement was fallen, after that the foundation of the chamber hath given way.

THERE is not any thing more to be seen in the chamber, save two little canals, one to the north, the other to the south. It is not possible now to determine either their use, or their depth, because they are stopped up with stones and other things which the curious have thrown in, to try how far they went.

THE other three great pyramids, as I have before remarked, are ranged almost

on the same line with the former, and may be distant from each other from five to six hundred paces.

THAT which is nearest to the first, and commonly called the second pyramid, appears to be the higher of the two, but this is caused by the foundation, which is more elevated, for in every thing else they are equal and similar; and have no other difference but that the second is so exactly closed, as that no mark of its ever having been opened appears. Its summit is covered on the four sides with granite so well joined, and of so finished a polish, that the most daring man would not attempt to mount thereon. It is true that here and there incisions are seen in the stones, but as they are made neither at equal distances, nor are continued high enough, it is, methinks, enough to dissuade from so vain an attempt.

ON the east side are seen the ruins of the temple, whose stones are of a prodigious bulk. Westward about twenty feet deep, there is a canal cut in the rock, on which the pyramid is raised, which witnesseth that

it was necessary to lower the rock, by so much in order to form a plane.

THE third pyramid is by one hundred feet lower than the two first, but quite similar to them in its construction; it is like the second, shut, and without any covering. On the north-east side are a great quantity of stones. But it is to be believed, they were rather employed for the temple, than the pyramid: this temple situate on the east side, as is also that of the second pyramid, is sooner known by ruins, than the other. The stones are of a prodigious bulk, and the entrance is on the east side.

THE fourth pyramid is an hundred feet lower than the third. It is like the others uncovered without, is shut, but hath no temple like the first. It has one article worthy of observation, which is, that its summit is terminated by one great stone, that seems to have served for a pedestal. It cannot be said that it is exactly in the same line with the others, inasmuch as it leans a little more to the west.

THESE four great pyramids are surrounded by many lesser ones, that for the most

part have been opened: there are three eastward of the first pyramid; but two of them are so ruined, that there is no discovering the chamber. Westward of the same pyramid there are many more, but all demolished.

OPPOSITE to the second pyramid, there are six which have been all opened. In one I remarked a square well thirty feet deep, all the rest is filled with sand and stones.

ABOUT 300 paces eastward of the second pyramid is the remarkable head of the huge and celebrated sphinx.

THERE are sepulchral grottoes in the neighbourhood of the pyramids, on some of them I have observed hieroglyphics which prove their institution to be by much posterior to the erection of pyramids. They have all been opened, and robbed of what had been deposited in them. I examined several, and found therein but the half of a small idol of earthen ware, such as are found now in great quantity around the pyramids in the neighbourhood of Saccara, in the quarter called, the land of Momies.

THE properest season to visit the pyra-

mids, as well as all the other antiquities of Egypt, is winter, from the month of November to the middle of April. The country is then every where dry. Whereas in summer most of the antiquities are inaccessible by the overflowing of the Nile, and the very great difficulty of getting small convenient boats to carry the curious whether they desire.

THERE is also another reason, which renders the visiting the antiquities not only difficult, but very perilous in summer: For in that season the Arabians make descents from the mountains in order to camp along the Nile; and as they are quite lawless, make no scruple of robbing strangers.

THE most agreeable way of seeing the pyramids, is with a party; they mutually excite each others curiosity. All the prodigies related by those who have been there before are not to be too credulously swallowed. From Cairo the tour to them may be made in a day or two. Those who have a mind to spend two days, ride off on asses, which they hire for eleven parats. Thus accoutred they go through the city, next cross the canal, which in that season

is dry, afterwards they traverse the isle of Rhodda; on the left of which behind the mokkias, they and their asses embark, and land at Gize, a village opposite to Cairo. There no stop is to be made, by the curious, nor until a league farther, where is the inn with the Kaimakan, who has always some chambers to let. There a very disagreeable night is passed by the curious, without beds, or other conveniency, they are tormented by bugs: but one night is soon over, and when curiosity eggs, such difficulties are the most easily born.

NEXT morning half a sequin is paid for such miserable entertainment; then the road to the pyramids is entered on. In the way thither is a small village, near which there is commonly a camp of Arabians. On account of their knowledge of the pyramids, it is necessary to take two of them for guides. Then bear away to the foot of the mountains near which are the pyramids. There dismount and walk the rest of the way.

AT the opening of the first pyramid fire some pistols in order to dislodge the bats,

then order the two Arabians to clear away the sand, that almost choaks up the farther entrance to it.

THIS done, the next precaution is to strip to your shirt, on account of the excessive heat within the pyramid; in this trim you get through, each person a bougie in his hand, for in this narrow avenue it would be dangerous to use flambeaux, on account of the suffocating smoke, which therefore are not to be lighted, but in places more spacious. At the end of it there is a passage made by force, whose opening is scarce one foot and a half high, and two broad.

AND through this hole must curiosity pass, on Belly Couchant, while the two Arabians who have wriggled themselves through before seize each a leg, and drag their gentleman through this probation cleft, all covered with filth: happily this narrow pass is not above two yards long, otherwise such tugging would be unsupportable to all not hackneyed in its way.

THIS strait got through, a large space opens, where the traveller takes breath, and

some refreshments, which give him new spirits to attempt the second canal.

THESE canals or conduits, as I have already said, are very slippery. Luckily from step to step there are round holes cut, by which means one can walk with safety, though stooping all the time.

AT the end of this second canal is a resting-place, on the right of which is an opening, that communicates with a well, not by means of stairs, but by a perpendicular pipe, in the same manner that our black artists get down a chimney.

THE third canal begins from the resting-place which leads to the interior chamber, and shapes its course horizontally, and in a straight line. The way before the chamber is embarrassed with some stones, which are not without difficulty passed over.

THE inside of the chamber is covered with stones, and whoever would undertake to examine where they were brought from, must undergo a like ceremony to that of passing from the first to the second canal; for it is a forced, narrow, and unfrequented passage, attempted but by few, who have

reported, it goes but a short way, and nothing besides a niche is to be seen.

THE lower chamber seen, then they return, as they went along, the horizontal canal, in order to regain the resting-place, which deprives the fourth canal of its acute angle by which it joined to the second, in consequence of which folks must climb, carefully hitching their feet in the holes cut in the wall, and thus they attain the fourth canal, which still ascends; they creep along it. It is twenty-two feet in height, and has a paved way on each side; it is nevertheless so difficult of ascent, and slippery, that if the foot misses one of the holds cut for facilitating the ascent, malgré all efforts, back they slide to the resting-place.

THOSE difficulties overcome, the fatigued repose themselves on a little platform where the canal ends. Then they must begin to climb anew. But as they soon meet with an opening where they can stand erect, they are relieved, and their past difficulties are swallowed up in admiration of this kind of entresoel, which at its beginning is little larger than the canals, but

widens by degrees on each side—at its end they are obliged to stoop for the last time, and pass the remainder of the fifth canal, by which they are conducted in an horizontal line to the superior salon, already mentioned.

HERE, by way of amusement, pistols are fired, which excite a noise equal to that of thunder. No farther objects of curiosity to be seen, they return the same way, and with the same difficulty.

THE first care of travellers when they come out of the pyramid must be to dress instantly, cover themselves warmly, and drink a glass of generous wine, in order to prevent a pleurisy, which they are very liable to, on account of the sudden transi-
tion from a very hot to a more temperate air. This precaution observed, and on finding themselves in their natural plight, they ascend the pyramid to contemplate the landskip all around, which is delightful. Thereon without, as well as in the chambers within, are inscribed the names of many persons who have visited this pyramid, and by so doing meant that their having

travelled thither should be transmitted to posterity.

THIS first pyramid well examined, go to the second, which being shut is soon dispatched. There is matter of contemplation in the ruins of a temple on the east side of it, from whence descending imperceptibly, they come to the Sphinx. At the same time that travellers admire its enormous size, they cannot help expressing their indignation against the brutality of those who have so disfigured its nose. In the same manner the other pyramids great and small are to be visited, as well as the grottoes in the neighbourhood.

THE antient bridges near Gize are objects not unworthy of the curious; they are on a plain, annually covered with water at the overflowing of the Nile; they are about half a league distant from the mountains, and as much from the first pyramid.

THERE are but two of them, the one goes from north to south, the other from east to west. Their use is now unknown; the place they are built on not being more exposed to the waters than the other plains,

is a just matter of surprize; nor can any probable cause be now imagined for erecting them, unless we suppose that there had been a canal there formerly.

THEIR structure and their inscriptions prove them to have been the work of Saracens. The one that stretches from north to south hath ten arches over, 241 feet in length, and 20 feet 4 inches in breadth; their height is 22 feet above the horizon. These two bridges are joined to each other by a brick wall in manner of a dyke.

THE traveller having finished his survey of all those antiquities, in the same manner returns to the city, observing this only difference, not to stop on the road.

IN this enquiry, it is always necessary to be accompanied by a janisary, because his presence keeps the vulgar in awe, and makes them break way to those he accompanies. His reward for this journey is a Fendoucli, or a Sequin. The Arabians who wait on travellers in this expedition think themselves well paid with twenty parats each, so the entire expence for all the company will not amount to more than four sequins, without including provisions,

which must not be forgot, for it is by meer accident, if in the villages they go through, they can get any thing besides butter and eggs.

It is practicable, for those who have a mind to do all in one day. They must set out by break of day from Cairo, and never stop on the way; this will cut off half the expence. I have tried both experiments, and like the latter best: I found time enough to see every thing and return to Cairo betimes, therefore I think it preferable to repeat the visit, rather than to linger out two days, and undergo an execrable night's lodging.

THAT I may not do things by halves, I shall here annex a description of the pyramids of Dagjour; which is a denomination given to all those southward of Memphis; though properly speaking the one are but a continuation of the others.

THE pyramids of Dagjour end near Meduun, where the most southern of them is. The more distant the eye is from it, the more it strikes, but the nearer the eye approaches, the more it loseth, being built of large bricks baked in the sun. That is the

reason, why the Arabians and the Turks commonly call it the false pyramid. It is seen at a great distance, and the more distinctly, by its not being near the mountains, nor in the neighbourhood of the other pyramids; it is on the top of a sandy hill. Its four sides are equal, and slope down to the horizon, in form of a glacis. It has three or four stones, of which the lowest is twenty feet perpendicularly high.

THIS pyramid has not been, and probably never will be, opened, from the little temptation its appearance gives for hazarding dangers and expence in the destruction of it.

AMONG the pyramids of Dagjour, of which the greater number are situated near Saccara, there are but two worthy of any attention: for all the others are small; one of them hath been opened, but few travellers care to go into that, as a visit to the interior of the grand pyramid near Cairo can be done with more safety and convenience. Great and small there are twenty of them, which do not present an unpleasant prospect.

THESE pyramids are all ranged at the

feet of the mountains. It seems as if nature had purposely spread out a plain for them here. Nor is there one like to be seen in all Egypt. For it is not only very large, but is likewise so elevated above the common horizon, that it is out of the reach of the overflowing of the Nile.

ITS situation maturely considered, there can be no great difficulty to believe that on this plain the antient city of Memphis was built: and for my part I dare conjecture that the pyramids in question were within the walls of that capital.

BE that as it may, the pyramids of Dagejour are not different from those opposite to Cairo. The ruinous state they are in, evince they have suffered a great deal more, whence one would conclude that they are more antient. Two of them for size do not yield to any near Cairo, but their structure is not so elegant or masterly. Some of them are built perpendicularly, with great rising stairs, or rather stories, on which there is no ascending, being each from 30 to 40 feet high.

*Remarks on the Obelisks.*

SINCE in the description of Alexandria I mentioned two obelisks, it is proper to inform the reader that there are others to be seen in Egypt. These precious monuments deserve to be placed next to the pyramids, and merit some general observations, as well on the materials out of which they are constructed, as on their form and use; I at the same time declare that these observations were made since my return from Egypt.

THE matter of which they are made insures them a long duration. They are commonly of granite, which greatly enhances their value, besides the difficulty of finding it adapted to them, as it seldom furnishes pieces so large as are required in obelisks.

By their form and embellishments they are entitled to rank among valuable curiosities and majestic ornaments. Their particular destination seems to have been decorations before the portals of temples, of

palaces, and at the ends of collonades. They are quadrangular; to a certain height are in a pyramidal form: then rising contract almost to a point, and are crowned by a pyramidal summit.

THEIR faces are covered with hieroglyphical figures, as admirable for their beauty, as they are an eternal cause of regret, for having lost the meaning of them, which we must despair to ever recover.

I BELIEVE obelisks are to be found in no other place but Egypt, except in places whither they have been carried from thence, and of them the number is not considerable.

ALL the obelisks are not of the same height, as to form they are all alike. The summit is wanting in some; they have not all been made by the same masters, nor do they consist of the same matter, which in the most of them is granite.

THERE are obelisks throughout Egypt from one end to the other. The first I saw are at Alexandria, the last at an island now called Giesiret-ell-Heiff, which appears to me to be the isle of Philo, so often mentioned in antient writers.

THEY are, or at least have been originally made of one piece, their pedestal is a cube, which commonly does not exceed the obelisks in breadth above three feet. The pedestal and part of the obelisks are most commonly sunk in the earth.

I SAW two obelisks in the isle of Giesiret-ell-Heiff. One is of white marble, and standing, but without any hieroglyphics. The other is of granite, lies on the ground, and has on each face a row of hieroglyphical figures. The summit of the first which terminates the western gallery, is shortened. It is but eight feet square, and sixteen high. The second is also eight feet square, but is sixteen high; it looks to be more modern, than any I have had an opportunity of seeing. It is certainly the best preserved of them all.

IN the ruins of the environs of Essouaen there is one broken in two, and hath no hieroglyphics. Each face is three feet in breadth. Its length cannot be measured, because it is for the greatest part buried in sand.

AT Lukoreen, which is thought to have been part of antient Thebes, are two obelisks.

liks. Their faces are six feet eight inches and a half in breadth. Their height is in proportion. The one situated east-ward is taller than the other. They both stand before a portal, or at the entrance of some superb ruins, so much admired in that place. They are without doubt the *non plus ultra* of all the obelisks art hath ever been able to execute.

NEAR Carnace may be perceived a continuation of those admired at Lukoreen, there are four entire, and in the place they were at first raised.

BEFORE the grand falon near Carnace, and at its entrance there are two other standing in a diagonal line. They are pretty near of the same size, and as beautiful as those at Lukoreen. They were no doubt accompanied by two more, now lost. Before a little temple are two obelisks, but much less than the preceding. They are about ten or eleven feet high; their faces are but a foot and a half broad, they are made of granite, which is of so fine a grain that it approaches very near to porphyry. In all appearance they have been pedestals of two idols: they are ornamented with

hieroglyphics, and painted with diversity of colours. These hieroglyphics for the most part represent figures embracing each other.

AMONG these ruins of Carnace are found divers huge masses of a whitish stone, which joined together formerly furnished obelisks of a prodigious size, but in their fall have broke into several pieces. They abound in hieroglyphics of different figures in compartments, coloured and ornamented, which have a very good effect.

IN the neighbourhood of Matareen, a village situate near grand Cairo, there stands an obelisk of a well proportioned size; in height equal to that of Cleopatra at Alexandria. But its hieroglyphics, though they may pass for well done, yet in that point must yield to these so much admired near Carnace and Lukoreen.

THE south side of this obelisk is the best preserved; the others, except the northern which differs a little, are similar to it. The lower part of the obelisks on the east side, is almost entirely ruined, so that scarce any hieroglyphic can be discovered there.

I CONCLUDE on this head, having in the article of Alexandria already given a de-

scription of the two obelisks there, one of which is called *Cleopatras*.



A journal of the author's travels from Cairo to Girge the capital of upper Egypt.

IN the preceding part of this work, which contains my journey from Alexandria to Cairo, I have given an exact account of every thing I had seen, and judged worthy of the reader's attention. At Cairo I was compelled to sojourn for more than three months, from the 7th of July 1737, to the 15th of November of the same year: which forced delay proceeded from several causes.

For besides the common obstacles, and general prevention of the natives against Franks†, desiring to penetrate into upper Egypt, through which vulgar prejudice many curious commissioned from different courts of Europe have been deterred, I was impeded by two supernumerary accidents, that affected me particularly.

† The common denomination of Europeans.

ONE was caused by a revolt then raging, and by which all the country was thrown into confusion. Though by orders of the government throats were cut, and heads knocked off, of all the rebels taken, there remained notwithstanding a great many who had joined the Arabians. The chief among them was named Salem Cachef. By a report of his death having been industriously spread abroad, in order to quiet the scared minds of the populace, he had eluded the strictest search after him, and married the daughter of an Arabian Schech. Strengthened by this alliance he robbed and slaughtered all that came from Cairo: so that it was equally dangerous to undertake the journey with the caravans by land, or by water up the Nile.

THE second impediment was a sickness I made flight of in the beginning, attributing it solely to the air of the country, which, though I looked on as not very favourable to my constitution, yet I hoped time would familiarise them with each other, but it became a matter of serious concern; for in a few days, unequivocal symptoms declared my disease to be a peripne-

mony, or inflammation of the lungs: I was confined to my bed for two months.

AFTER more than three months involuntary stay at Cairo, I had the pleasure to see the end of all oppositions to my farther pursuits in upper Egypt. The fever abated, I was cheared with the flattering increase of strength every day, to enable me for the undertaking. The revolt which had lately caused such great alarms was now so far reduced, that we could safely bargain for a bark to carry us up the Nile. In order to facilitate the way and secure us from the natives prejudice against the Europeans, we had provided ourselves with the strongest recommendations, from the chiefs of the government, as well as of the militia, directed to several governors of provinces, and to several Arabian Schechs.

WE agreed with a barge-master to carry us to Essuaen for thirty Fendouclis, and a new coat, on condition that he should not take in a person more than our company consisted of, which had been lately augmented by a Cofte-priest, and two missionaries from Rome: One of whom was a valuable acquisition, in as much as he un-

derstood the Arabian very well, could therefore be very useful to us, if by any accident we should lose the Maronite and the Jew, whom we had employed for our interpreters.

WE insisted on another condition with the reys or master of the barge, to wit, to take no merchandize on board, lest the trafficking thereof should delay our navigation. But he had been before-hand with us, and got secretly on board whatever things he had a mind to carry, so that after some debate we were obliged to desist on that head.

ALL preparatives for our travelling expedited, we embarked in the afternoon of Sunday 17th of November. A little after, we sailed from old Cairo, where our bark had been anchored, facing the Mokkias, and not far from the Grand Bazar. For the remainder of the afternoon we did not make much more way than the length of a cannon shot, because our goodly reys was not on board with us, so that properly speaking our intended course began not till the following day, from whose date I commence my account.

IN executing this descriptive task, I shall give a faithful narrative of all I have seen, and of the intervening accidents on the road, from Cairo to Derri, where to my great mortification we were obliged to return, all ulterior progress being impracticable. I shall employ the same care in the relation of my return from thence to Cairo.

My narrative shall be founded on the journal I wrote, as I travelled along. I shall add some particularities (noticed but in my return) of places already mentioned; and proportion my observations to the objects, appearing to be more or less interesting. In regard to the latter I shall barely say as much as is necessary for the instruction of the curious who may desire to undertake the same journey. But in regard to the former, I shall be more circumstantial, especially concerning what I have seen of the magnificent remains of antiquity. In a word, I shall do all in my power, that nothing may be omitted that can afford the reader satisfaction; having, as far as circumstances permitted, let nothing escape my researches that might illustrate the subjects treated of.

MONDAY, 18th of November, 1737.
Our reys came not on board to us till the afternoon. We failed immediately, and saw on the eastern bank of the river, Deriminna.

THE Coptes have a convent there. We cast anchor, quarter of a league higher, under the grand Mosque, called, Atter Ennabi, which we have spoken of before, as well as of Deir Etiin, another little town with a Coptish convent, and a Mosque, which is three quarters of a league higher up---we had to our right, Giesret Edahab, that is the golden island. There is a village on it bears the same name, with a Mosque; it is a league and a quarter higher up in the river, than the isle of Rhodda, and about a quarter of a league distant from the western bank of the Nile, and faces Sakkietmekki, a town environed by some villages bearing the same name. In it there is a Mosque, and in its neighbourhood a canal.

As we went up the river, on the left appears Bassatiin, a town about half a mile above Deir Etiin. The Mahometans have a Mosque there; and the Jews of Cairo a

coemctery. Opposite to it on the western shore is seen Abunumerus, a town wherein is a mosque. Its name is also that of Greyish, a coloured bird on the Nile.

Two leagues above Bassatiin, is Ellkallaha, a fortress situated in the mountains a league and a half from the eastern bank of the Nile. This fortress has a Turkish garrison and a Mosque. It is remarkable only for its situation; the fortification is inconsiderable.

ALMOST opposite to Elkallaha on the western side lies Manjelmusa, a village ornamented with a Mosque. Between it, and Abunumerus is a grand pyramid, five stories high.

A LEAGUE and a half higher up, on the same western bank is situate Menahuad, another village with a Mosque; there, are seen the second pyramids, called the pyramids of Dagjour.

ALMOST opposite to Menahuad, on the eastern bank of the river appears Ellgharassi, a town where the Turks have a Mosque, and a cemetery: they chose this place for the latter, on account of the

grounds being so high, as not to be affected by the overflowing of the Nile.

ABOUT a league farther up, but on the other side of the river, is Mugna, a village of no note. Facing it, on the eastern bank, is Deir Ell Adovia. It has a convent of Coftes: the building is irregular, and devoid of any particular beauty.

A LEAGUE forward we passed between one on the right, the other on the left side of the Nile; that which lay to our left is called Deir-Ell-Hadie.

THAT to our right is named, Deir Abufaiſſeen.

THOSE two convents contain nothing more remarkable, than does that of Deir Ell Adovia.

ABOUT a league and a quarter higher, is Schech Atmaen, a village of no importance; westward of the river, and opposite to it, is Turrage, a village with a Mosque, a little above the grand canal that flows into the country.

HALF a league from Turrage, the canal situate between both, is Maſhara, a poor village. Its name signifies a press. But a little higher up, on the other side of the

river, and three quarters of a league from its western bank, rises to view the town of Sakkara, which, besides having a Mosque, is celebrated for its commerce of mummies, which the inhabitants dig out of the place called the Plain of Mummies. There also is the labyrinth, wherein formerly birds, and other embalmed animals were buried. The several pyramids near Sakkara excited my curiosity, both going up, and coming down the river. Though I have touched on them already in the foregoing part of this work, where I treated of pyramids, I think it not improper to add a few farther remarks here. The first of them is situate towards the north, and consists of four stones diminishing in bulk, in proportion as they rise.

THE structure of the second differs not from that of the pyramids of Memphis, and is pretty near of the same height; is open, and seems to be greatly damaged. As this place is almost unfrequented by strangers, the canals of the pyramid are full of sand; which is an almost unsurmountable difficulty for those who should desire to go into it.

THE third, which seems to be somewhat higher than the second, is singular in its figure. Though unopened, it appears to have suffered more than all the other pyramids; wherefore I should very readily conclude, that it is perhaps the eldest of all the grand pyramids. But neither this nor the rest of them, wear the least appearance of their having been covered over with granite.

THESE observations finished, I now continue the thread of my narration. After we had seen the pyramids of Sakkara, we reached Helovan, a village on the western bank; whose name signifieth sweetness. Though it must be owned that it is neither sweeter, finer, nor more agreeable than Schim, another village on the western bank, where we arrived at ten o' clock in the night. The air being then so calm, it was impossible for us to make head against the current of the river; which compelled us to cast anchor there.

TUESDAY, November 19th, A north wind, and sufficiently strong, blowing, we weighed anchor at eleven o'clock in the morning; and soon came up with Giesiret

Terfage, an island lying not far from the eastern bank. On it is a village of no great importance.

WE passed by, almost opposite to its southern point, and on the right hand of us, Mesguna, a town surrounded by six little villages, some a little distant from the Nile. Tebbiin, a village about two leagues and a half above Giesret-Terfage; but no way comparable to Dagjour, a town of a noble appearance, on account of its Mosques; but is still more distinguished on account of the pyramids in its neighbourhood; and which present a most pleasing view among Dagjour, Mesguna, and Schim.

A LITTLE more than a league above Dagjour, we saw on our right hand Scho-back; and at the same time on our left, Gamase El-Kebira, that is, Gamasis the Great. In this village is a Mosque.

A LEAGUE and a quarter higher up are two other villages, one on the right Kof-ferhoyad; the other on the left Lagfas. Between these two villages begins an island, three quarters of a league in length, situa-

ted pretty near in the middle of the river: its name I know not, nor if it hath any.

A LITTLE farther is Missanda, a plain village; and Gamase-Ellogoira; that is, Gamasis the Little, a town, or rather the aggregate of five villages. I landed there to take a view of their plows; from the inspection of which I concluded what little credit is to be given to the relations of those authors, who would fain persuade us, that there is no necessity for tillage in Egypt; but that, after the inundation of the Nile has passed away, it sufficed to throw seed on the ground.

ABOUT night-fall we ordered our bark to be run ashore between Gamasis Ellogoira, and Gizziret-Ella-Zale. Under this name is comprehended a suite of seven little islands, very near one to the other, and less distant from the western, than from the eastern bank of the Nile. They extend about four leagues, and each of them hath its village.

THERE are two other villages on the bank of the river, opposite to the third island, as one goes up the Nile; that to the west is named Elsoff; that to the east is called

Menjelkarag. On the same side are two other villages; to wit, Huoddi, situated opposite to the northern point of the fifth island; and Gubbebaad, that faces the seventh island; which has over against it Rigga, a village on the western bank of the Nile.

DURING the night a little wind sprang up, which made our watermen haul out and shove our bark afloat. We got on but slowly.

WEDNESDAY, November 20th, We were becalmed all that day, and had besides a strong current to tug against, which might be attributed to the isles that straiten the bed of the Nile in this place. We had no other way of proceeding left, than by having our bark hauled with a rope between the isles that lay to the right, and the villages Effoff, Huoddi, and Gubbebaad, on the left.

THREE quarters of a league above Gizzi-ret-Ella-Zale, are three islands more; the two first are very little; the third is three quarters of a league in length, named Eutfeeg, and of which I shall speak hereafter.

OPPOSITE to the first of those islands,

are two mean villages; the one called Salchie, on our left. The other called Ud-wab, on our right. It was with great difficulty that we made our way thither.

OVER against the northern point of the isle of Eutfeeg, whereon there is a village with a Mosque, we perceived, on our right, half a league from the bank of the river, the village of Soft, situate north-east of Meduun, a village a league distant from the western bank of the Nile: between these two places, but nearer to the latter than to the former, standeth the most southern of the pyramids of Dagjour, and, as I surmise, of all Egypt. I have already spoken of it in the preceding part of this work, and given the reason why the inhabitants of the country call it the false pyramid. I shall only add here, that notwithstanding it is built but of bricks baked before the sun, its figure is beautiful. It is so well preserved through a number of ages, that it scarce appears to have received any damage. Its fine appearances arise chiefly from its situation on a squared hill, whose four sides smoothed, are so exactly adapted

to the base of the pyramid, that to the distant eye they seem to be but one body.

BUT as, on account of the dead calm, we could make no way, we had our bark anchored near to an extensive plain, covered with Turkish corn, that began to ripen.

WE saw that day a great many water-camels. In the evening we were pestered with bats, that hunt for their food on the surface of the Nile. During the night we kept a strict watch, and every four hours fired a musket, which denoted, that we were not to be surpris'd. And this we practis'd all the rest of the journey.

THURSDAY, November 21. The calm and current continuing all that day, we were oblig'd to stay there. We saw above an hundred barks, from Upper-Egypt, sailing down the current in their way to Cairo: they were all laden. Having leisure-time on our hands, we stept a-shore. Our company fired at, and killed a great many pigeons: but as it was not the season of young ones, those which fell to our lot were old, and so tough, there was no eating them.

A MORE advantageous spoil was found in shooting a kind of delicious partridge, about the size of our red partridge. Their feathers were like to those of the pintado's, and their tail like the swallow's: their meat hath an aromatic taste, and a strong smack of fumet: none of our bark's equipage knew what they were.

WE gathered also a great deal of purslane among the corn.

FRIDAY, November 22. There was not a breath of wind in the morning. In the afternoon a strong gale sprung up, but southerly, which locked us up where we were. After this violent south wind, succeeded another calm, followed by a breeze from the north-west. We hoisted sail to catch what there was of it; but it soon failed us, and so becalmed us a-new, we were forced to have our bark towed against the stream. This artifice was but of little avail to us: for at the expence of greatest efforts, we made but little way, therefore we resolved to fasten our bark to the eastern bank of the Nile.

SATURDAY, November 23. A dead calm still continued: we went a-shore, in order

to get some provisions; but finding none, we returned on board, empty handed. Soon after we were enabled to make sail, by means of a weak north-westerly wind. It was soon spent, and we were reduced to use our rope, until mid-day, when the wind freshened enough, not only to drive us before it, but even to break our fore-mast yard. This accident compelled us to return to Salehie, where, whilst another yard was making for us, we took in provisions for several days. We immediately after failed; but had scarce made a league, when a violent north-easterly wind obliged us to reef all our sails. We were then abreast of Giesiret Eutfeeg, an island situate near the eastern bank of the Nile. There is on it a village of the same name, with a Mosque; a little grove that crowns it, forms an agreeable aspect. Over-against Giesiret Eutfeeg are two villages. The eastward is called Soll; the westward Edfo.

TOWARDS the evening, the wind became more moderate, and northerly; we bore away, and failed between two villages, opposite one to the other: Brumbul,

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on the eastern bank; Huasta, on the western. The name of the latter signifies *The Mediator*.

WE discovered, almost at the same time, two islands lying off the eastern bank of the river; the first is but a quarter of a league in length, and called Giesfret Ell-Gurmand; the second, about as long again, is named Giesfret Barrakaed. They are separated by a small passage between them, and have each a village. Night coming on, we moored our bark before Sauvied-Elmasluub, a town on the western bank of the river, opposite to Giesfret Barrakaed, wherein is a mosque. Its name signifies the Watering-Place of the Cross.

Sunday, November 24.

EARLY in the morning I went again to see the false pyramid above mentioned. I was at a great distance from it. I nevertheless drew near enough to be able to judge of its structure, and remark what kind of bricks had been employed in it.

AT my return to Sauvied-Elmasluub, we were visited by Mustapha, brother of Kiaja, or colonel Osman Bey. He made us a present of two sheep, thirty fowls, an

hundred eggs, and a hamper full of bread. In return, we complimented him with some wine of Candia, and other sorts of liquors, some sherbet, and other inconsiderable presents. We had made acquaintance with him at Cairo.

HAVING taken leave of him, we sailed about ten o'clock in the morning. There was but little wind, and great rain, notwithstanding which we passed by Komgerida, situated not far from the western bank of the Nile. It may be called a city, and is indeed pretty large. It has one large mosque, accompanied by several smaller.

SOON after we reached on the same side of the river Bennehedder, a meer village. Opposite to it, is Dirmimund, a Coft-convent, which has but very little tillable land. Around this convent are seven date-trees, which the natives of the place hold in a miraculous light, because from whatsoever side they are looked at, they cannot be all reckoned together. .

VERY near to the convent of Dirmimund, is the tomb of a pretended Mahometan saint.

ON the other side of the Nile is Mei-

mund, a town, with a mosque, which has a goodly appearance.

ABOUT a league higher up lies Eschmend Ell-Arrab, a village, so situated on the bank of the Nile, that the waters of the river carry some part of it away every year. Although its houses be of as mean a structure as any met with from Cairo thither, they have this particularity, that the top of each terminates in a pigeon-house, which, to the distant spectator, furnishes an agreeable prospect. From Eschmend Ell-Arrab upwards to the first cataract, this manner of building is exactly followed. In some places it is enacted by a special law, that no man be allowed to marry, or be at the head of a family, unless he be possessed of a pigeon-house topped abode. The reason of the law is, their having no other ingredients to manure their lands with, besides the dung of those birds. For the excrements of all other animals is carefully preserved to be burnt, and the soot that arises from them to make armoniac-salt.

THIS sort of Arabian houses are so contrived, that as the pigeons tenant the

upper part, so the proprietors and their families occupy the lower one. Their agreeable appearance, vanishes on a nearer approach; go into them, they are the dwellings of poverty, and wretchedness.

HAVING stopt half an hour at Eschmend Ell-Arrab, we had our bark towed, in order to double a point that projects a little into the Nile. This point doubled, we found we could make sail. Though the sky was overcast, there blew a northerly gale, by the assistance of which we passed by two large villages, situate on the western bank, each has its mosque. One of them is Ben-niali, which signifies the son of Ali; the other is Zeituun; this word means an olive-tree.

IMMEDIATELY after we passed by three other villages of less note, wherefore I shall think it sufficient to name them, Schenduie, Buush, Mankaritsche.

THE other side of the river is desert. Two leagues above the convent of Dirmimund, the mountains encroach so near toward the brink of the river, that for the space of twenty-five leagues there is scarce any ground fit for tillage. Nor is aught

else to be seen, but numerous ruins of antient edifices.

AT eight o'clock in the evening we moored before Benesoef, a city situate on the western bank of the Nile. It is a kind of capital, thirty eight leagues from Cairo, and the residence of a Bey, who is governor of it. The mosques give it a grand look.

DIRECTLY opposite to Benesoef is seen Beyiadie, which place is the retreat of a band of Christians, to the infamy of that title, being all high-way robbers. It is not safe to pass by there in the night; property and life would be equally in danger.

MOST of the places hitherto mentioned are supported by their commerce with Cairo, whither they send all their commodities. Their greatest trade is for poultry and eggs, which they keep till some bark goes by, and then sell them in the bulk. and hence arises the great difficulty a stranger meets with to come at provisions in those places. To get but a dozen of eggs, he must go to four houses, and so of the rest.

Monday, November 25.

HASSAN-BEY, formerly the slave, but since become the favourite of Osman-Bey, was chieftain of the militia, and governor of Benesoef. We had letters of recommendation to him; but as he had been gone to visit some part of his domains, we did not think it necessary to wait for his return. I landed notwithstanding for two motives; the one to see the city, the other to buy powder and shot. The powder cost me twelve parats the rotal, and I paid for the shot at the rate of six parats the rotal.

As soon as I had returned on board, we made sail with a good northerly gale. Not far from Benesoef, we met two barks that had lately perished with all their loading.

A SHORT league above Benesoef, and on the same side, we saw Tismend, a village with a mosque.

HALF a league higher Hallabie, a plain village.

HALF a league higher Mellaghie, another plain village.

HALF a league higher Taba-Ana. And quarter of a league farther on Baranga. After follow, at similar distances one from

the other, Tanza, Beneghasein, and Kom-
busch.

THOSE parts are very populous. In continuing upwards to the monastery of St. Michael, of which I shall speak hereafter, it is to be observed that the inhabited places are scarce more than a quarter of a league distant one from the other. The eastern side of the river is almost a desert. The mountains continue to Neslet-Abonuur, a village situate near Baranga, and whose name signifies *the Descent from the Father of light*. Here is to be seen what the Turks call Shiamed, and means, the Camel's Rock. They never fail to shew it to strangers as something very singular. On examination it appears to be no more than the fragment of a rock, worn by time into this figure, which to them seems like that of a camel.

CONTINUING our journey, we saw the village of Bebe; it was to the right of us, and has a mosque.

WE afterwards passed by three villages: one is called Elfugage; the second Scirce; and the third Bedaeg; which last is about a quarter of a league from the river's side.

A LITTLE higher we saw Fefchu, a town with a mosque; it lies on the western bank of the Nile, and almost opposite to a village named Abuseid, which imports the Father of Seid. It was to our left, being on the other side of the Nile.

IN advancing a little, we came first to the village of Ababe, which was on our right; and after to that of Tent, on the same side. The latter seemed to be somewhat more considerable than the former; but perhaps that effect was owing to its mosque.

HAVING passed Tent, we came up with two little islands, that lie north and south, and are divided but by a small intervening passage. The first we met, or the more northern of the two, is Scherona. Nearer to the eastern than to the western side of the river, whereon there are two villages that run into one, Magana, and Hallabia. On the other side of the river is a little village, called Sauvied Ell-Tfchiedami.

THE second island, which is nearer to the western than to the eastern bank of the river, lies over against the villages Magaga, Scechfiat, and Abbaed. The second is

the most considerable of the three, and has a mosque.

THERE are also on the eastern side of the Nile, facing of the second island, three villages placed in this order, Scherona, Scherabie, and Benegamet. The first is the most remarkable, because it was near that village that Schierres Bey and Soliman Bey fought. This place is still the common field of battle, whenever any rupture happens among the Senschiacs. The weaker party retires into Upper-Egypt. The adversary pursues to this place, where the quarrel is decided sword in hand.

WE after passed by five other villages, neighbouring one to the other, and all on the western side of the river, to wit, Gien-die, a plain village; Abutschorfche, where there is a convent of Coftes; Benemasaeg, a plain village; Gees, has a mosque; Kufr-Solu, has a Cofst-convent.

IN the space opposite to those five villages, on the other side of the Nile, there is but one village, called Abuschikast, and but of mean appearance.

WE saw after, on our right, the four following villages, Neflet Tobasis, a plain

village; Mattai, about a quarter of a league distant from the Nile; Kufr-Benem-Hammed, that is, the Antientness of the Children of Mahomet. It derives its name from Benem-Hammed, lying opposite to it, on the eastern bank, consisting of two villages half a league distant one from the other, but are comprehended under one and the same denomination.

ABOVE Kufr-Benem-Hammed, and on the same side, we saw the village of Colofano.

ADVANCING by degrees, we passed by three others, to wit, Magiara, a plain village; Samalund, a village with a mosque; and Schereina, a plain village.

WE beheld at the same time three other places ranged on our left, and equi-distant from each other, to wit, Dulab, Serrerie, and Tschibat, and Teir, or Deïr. The last of these villages appeared to me the most considerable of the three.

THERE is a Coft-convent under the name of Our Lady; but it is now inhabited but by some Christian Coftes, and is built of mud. There are to be seen the ruins of many houses and palaces, built of hewn

stone, but so maltreated, that nothing more than their precincts can be discovered. According to the tradition of the country, they are the remains of a palace formerly called Sciron, built by one of the Magi. There are stars artfully contrived in the rock, which, about the middle of its height, we lose sight of; but a little farther, on the north side, they re-appear, and continue to the Nile.

THERE is also to be seen a kind of aqueduct to convey water from the Nile, which was drawn from thence by the means of some machine: it appears to be very antient, and to have been made of large stones.

ITS use cannot be readily guessed, other, than it was a way to descend to the river: at the bottom of the rock we attempted the stairs, but found it dangerous, on account of the stones that frequently fall from above, and render the passage very dangerous.

IN returning from this place we saw some persons coming up towards us, which was occasioned by our having fired at some birds.

At eight o'clock in the evening we passed by Ell-Botschen, a place consisting of two contiguous villages; they were to our right: we continued as far as Sohorra, which is above half a league higher upon the same side. Our intention was to sail all night; but an accident hindered us. Our bark struck so violently on a sand bank, that it was with great difficulty we got her off.

IN the detail of my journey on November 25th, I ought not to omit observing, that I perceived since we had passed Benesoe, that the bed of the river was become considerably narrow; and that from morning to night of that day, we remarked on our right hand a spacious tract of land, and well cultivated; whereas on our left we could see but mountains, for the most part sandy, and which stretched to the brink of the river.

OPPOSITE to Sohorra there is an island of the same name, but situated near the eastern side of the river, whereon is a village.

Tuesday, November 26th.

WE continued sailing, driven by a fa-

avourable northerly wind, and invited by pleasant weather. In the morning we passed by three villages situated westward of the Nile. The two first were Taghel and Amudev; they are contiguous one to the other. The third is called Ebne-Gazum. About mid-day, we were near Menie, which is looked on as midway between Cairo and Girge. To say almost half way would be nearer the truth; for the latter being an hundred leagues distant from the former, and Menie but forty-seven, which is by three leagues short of being the midway. The vessels that sail down the Nile to Cairo are obliged to land at Menie, and pay some duty there. It seems to be a considerable place. It contains several mosques; and among other things I observed many columns of granite.

OVER against Menie, on the eastern bank of the Nile, is Sanuada, a village; its name signifies chaste. It contains several sugar-mills.

HALF a league above Menie, and westward of the river, is Bennem-Hammed, which consists of three villages, a quar-

ter of a league distant one from the other.

WE afterwards reached Ell Mottaghara, or Mettaghera, a district so called for its containing six villages, three on the right, and three on the left side of the Nile, with an island of the same name, situate near the western side of the river. A forest of palm-trees stretches three leagues in length along the east side of the river, between Ell Mottaghara and Sanuada.

HAVING passed by Mottaghara, we came up with Bennehassein, the name of five villages on the western side of the Nile, and very near to each other. A tract of land on the other side of the river belongs to those villages, of which, the first besides the general name of Bennehassein, has also that of Girgares. The mountains in its vicinity are famous for the grottoes of holy anachorets that formerly abided there.

IMMEDIATELY after we passed by the following villages, Segale, Kirkar, Mefchel, Dabbes, Sakiedmusa, Garanduul, and Rodda, all situate on the western bank of the Nile, except Garanduul, which is about

three quarters of a league up the country.

A LITTLE above Rodda is a canal, called Bagher-Jusef.

ON the other side of the river appears with its mosque, the city of Schechabade, formerly Antinoe, capital of the low Thebaid. It contains several antiquities, wherein none of the enormous stones employed by the Egyptians in their building, are to be seen, but stones of a moderate size, and such as were used in constructing triumphal arches at Rome. The principal objects among the ruins are three grand gates; the first is ornamented with columns of the Corinthian order, channelled: the two others, which correspond with the first, are plainer. These ruins of ancient Antinoe are at the feet of the mountains, and bordering on the Nile. The walls of the houses have been built of bricks, which look as red to-day, as if they had been but newly made. Very probably the village of Rodda above-mentioned was the Mokkias of Antinoe.

ON the other side of the river, half a league up in the country, and a quarter of

a league from the canal, is a Coft-convent of St. Michel; a little higher, and on the brink of the Nile, we perceive a little village, called Beyjadic-ell-Kebira. Here the villages begin to lie wider of one another.

AT eight o'clock in the evening, we were a-breast of Neslet-ell-Raramu, a village on the west side of the Nile. The barks commonly stop all night before this village, when they happen to be too late, to pass by Monfalut by day-light. I went a-shore, and on my return saw more than twenty barks, which formed a sort of caravan.

ON the other side of the Nile, opposite to Neslet Roramu, is a Coft convent, named Deir Abuichhanna. The tilled land on that side is not above a quarter of a league in breadth; continual mountains occupy the rest of the country. But on the western side of the river, tilled lands are seen as far as the eye can carry, and the distant mountains are scarcely perceived.

Wednesday, November 27th.

THE weather being fine, and the wind

favourable, we sailed all night, and passed by Ell-Berschell. This village lay to our left; and Achemumein, to our right. It was here, or hereabout, that antient Hermopolis stood, which Ammianus Marcellinus reckons amongst the most celebrated cities of the Thebais.

ABOUT a league higher up, and half a league in the land, we discovered Mel-lavi, a city of an handsome appearance. It has a mosque, and a Caschef.

A LITTLE farther, and on the same side, we saw Magfera, a village almost opposite to Stableantor, the name of a profound grotto, or cavern, where are a quantity of pilasters or square supports, practised in the rock. Dreut Ellschbriff lies westward, in it is a mosque.

A LEAGUE farther on the same side, but about half a league in land, is the village of Galanisch. There is no safety here for unarmed barks. The Arabians of these parts are profest pirates, in despite of the government. We were informed that the Senschiak having one day sent thither his bark, to seize on the chief of the pirates, the head of a Christian slave was sent to

him whose throat had been cut in a bark that accidentally lay near their land. They gave the Senschiak to understand that it was the head of their chief, who rejoicing at the present, paid them liberally for it. Next day he discovered the cheat and punished the authors of it severely.

STILL going forward we met the village of Fasara. After that of Misara, both west of the river; the latter is over-against Beneamraen or Omarne.

UNDER this name is comprehended an extent of land, containing four adjoining villages.

ON the west we perceived two villages, one called Senabo, the other Elgusia.

THE former is a league removed into the country, in each there is a mosque. The inhabitants of both are stigmatized for wickedness; therefore those who approach their land must be on their guard.

IN the morning we reached two places bordering on the Nile, one on the right, the other on the left; the westward one is Um Ell-Gufuer, the other Ell-Kgufuer. It is a convent of Coftes.

HERE the mountains on the east side of

the Nile are so near to its bed, that it is not an easy matter to ride along; in them are a number of caverns, some large, some small, whither the labourers used to retire, when formerly working in those quarries, in order to hew out stone for the edifices to be erected.

ABOVE Ell-Kgufuer are the mountains of Abuffode, which, to speak more properly, are but high and steep rocks, reaching along the Nile. We had them all that day to our left.

No other mountains in the world give stronger evidence in favour of the deluge than they do. For there can be remarked the different impression the water in its fall has made on them from top to bottom.

IN several parts of these rocks, there are such distinct echoes, that they lose not one syllable. Bordering on the river are a number of grottoes, which were formerly the retreats of pious anchorets, but are now occupied by a species of pyratial Arabians, that infest the Nile. They have a Schech; to whom they pay no farther obedience than to themselves agreeable: nor

do they pay more deference to the Turkish government, though often pursued by it, in order to punish them for their rapines; but they know where to shelter themselves in the mountains. We saw a dozen of their barks fastened in a creek which the Nile forms at the feet of the rocks.

At eleven in the morning we passed by the village of Schugeria, on the west side. An hour after we came up with Monfaluut, a city on the same side, and at some distance from the river. It is a sort of capital; its mosques give it a grand appearance. It is the residence of a Copt-bishop.

The country round it is very fertile. All kinds of fruit are in great plenty, even apples.

All vessels going up the Nile pay a custom at Monfaluut; wherefore it will be prudent in all travellers instigated by meer curiosity, never to suffer any merchandise on board the vessel they have. For if they do they are exposed to many affronts and inconveniences, as we experienced here and in other places.

OPPOSITE to this city, eastward of the

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Nile, is a Coft-convent, absolutely inacceffible. Thofe determined to go to it, muft fubmit to be raifed up in a basket by means of a pully; whence this convent has the name of the Pully-convent.

NEAR thofe mountains dwells a Bedouin, called Hafler Abuaffi. He has the feeret of fupporting himfelf there, without being approved of by the government of Cairo. He fows and plants, nay exacts a tenth of their harveft from his fubjects. Every time the Senschiak comes to Monfalut, a rumour is immediately fpread, that he is come with a full intent of making war againft Hafler Abuaffi, which report he foon puts an end to, by the interceffion of the presents he makes to the Senschiak.

ABOUT evening we got up to an ifland, fituate between two villages. One eaftward, Ell-Maabda; the other weftward, called Taua.

THE paffage of this place is very dangerous: we there faw a bark that had foundered and funk.

A LEAGUE farther there is another ifland, and there the paffage is ftill more

dangerous; it is called Giesiret Vulad-baggid.

THIS second island, half a league in length, is also situate between two villages: that, it is very near to, is called Ell-Mahamdie; the other, farther from it, and on the west side, is called Netschafchiellaua.

As soon as we had passed by Schach Tamisch, a village also situate on the west side of the river, we anchored a quarter of a league from the village of Sallaem, situate on the same side.

WE saw that day the first crocodile. He was stretched on a sand-bank, which, after the fall of the waters of the Nile, is above its level. When he saw our bark come, he sprang off and plunged clumsily into the water. We computed his length to be ten feet.

Thursday, November 28th.

FOR want of wind, we had our bark towed in the morning by our sailors, which was a painful job to those poor wretches, the weather being extremely cold, and they very thinly clad. It was however an indispensable necessity, in order to be able to get round the elbow formed by the

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Nile between Benuup Ell-Haman, a village on our left; and Sallaem Ell-Odder, another village on our right.

THE reason why the elbow the Nile forms here is so difficult to get round, is, because for the space of three leagues the course is formed north to east. Midway are two villages: one on the right, called Mangabar; the other on the left, named Ell-Ekrat.

BETWEEN these two villages is an island a quarter of a league in length. Though no care was omitted, our bark was a-ground several times, facing this island; but the weather being fair, we as often got her a-drift again, without any great trouble.

IN the afternoon we doubled the point of Siuut. This city has the appearance of another capital. It has a caschef, and some mosques, and is the residence of a Coft-bishop.

THIS is the place of rendezvous for all who have a mind to make part of the caravan that goes from Siuut to Sennar.

IT is remarkable for its antique grottoes now called Sababinath, and made in the mountain named Tfchebat ell-Kofferi.

It is a matter of two hours ascent, before by the guidance of the mountain path, the first door can be reached, through which one enters into a grand salon, supported by four hexagonal pillars of the very rock. The cieling is ornamented with pictures distinguishable even now, and the gold employed thereon shines on every side. The floor is covered with sand and stones. Nothing more is to be remarked in this salon, besides a few openings here and there, which lead to other apartments; but as they are filled up with ruins, and the passages to them are not easy, no body attempts them. There is over the salon an apartment, which from without may be climbed to, but with great difficulty. It is not so large as the inferior, has no pillars, and is painted like the other. On each side of this second or upper-salon is a tomb of the same stone as the mountain is, of which they are part. One of the tombs is open, the other shut; but almost buried in the sand. The upper-salon communicates with other apartments, but the communication is obstructed from the same causes as in those below.

THE part of the mountain, where seven openings are seen in a line, is called the Seven Chambers. An old tradition prevails among the Turks and Arabians, that these chambers had been inhabited by seven virgins. Be that as it may, it is certain that these grottoes are full as magnificent as those I have already spoken of. I had a strong inclination to go up to, and examine them; but the way thither was too long to go on foot, and I could get no kind of convenience to carry me. I was therefore obliged to remain satisfied with the description given to me by one of our company, that had been there the year before, from whom I had heard what I have said on the subject.

THERE had been formerly at Siuut a canal, called Maafrata. It went to Senabo, but is now choaked up.

A LITTLE above the city of Siuut begin the dwelling-places of the Arabians, known by the name of Hauara.

THEY also possess lands on the other side of the Nile. They are said to be originally of the kingdom of Maroc. They are the best kind of Arabians: they are govern-

ed by a Schech, and are all gentlemen, somewhat in the Polish way.

THE wind being favourable, we took advantage of it, and continued our route: we passed between two villages, Benimur, on the left; and Schiub on the right.

A FULL quarter of a league higher, we came up with Catea, a village situate on the same side, and almost over-against it; and another called Ell-Motmar.

Friday, November 29th.

ON the west side of the Nile, the bank of the river is covered with trees from Catea to Ell-Necheele.

WE lost the beauty of this prospect, because we continued sailing all night. There is facing Necheele another village, called Sachet. In its environs are several little canals kept in order by the owners of the land they are in. But as they are not obliged to this by any order of government, the canals are often altered, and are consequently of no great importance.

TOWARDS morning we were becalmed; and the current becoming very strong against us, we were obliged to weather out that day near Sachet.

A COFT-PRIEST, whom we had received into our bark, at a small distance from Cairo, took his leave of us, without being regretted by any. For, though simple in appearance, his presumption went so far as to say more than once, that he could not believe us to be Christians, because none of us paid him the homage of kissing his hands, whereas the Cofts run in crowds after him every day, to confess their respect by such tokens of submission.

OUR people went ashore, in order to get some necessary provisions: they killed a number of pigeons, and saw a great quantity of other birds; but they found it difficult to steal near enough to them. However, they killed a goose of the Nile, whose feathers were very fine. But what was of more value to us, it was exquisite to the taste, flavoured of ginger, and greatly of fumet, with an aromatic taste. Its craw was full of Turkish corn, and of a root that grows on the borders of the Nile when its waters are low. To this root its flesh owed its taste and fumet: for nothing comes nearer to ginger than this root.

THE Arabians hearabout were in war

with, and slaughtered each other every day, which was no impediment to our going on shore; nor was any insult offered.

WE saw some Arabians reaping in a neighbouring plain. They cut at a time but just as much corn as their cattle can consume the straw of in one day. And as soon as that quantity of corn is cut, they set about preparing the land to be sowed anew.

Saturday, November 30th.

THE calm and the strong current still continuing, we were obliged to lie by all day in the same place. In the morning I went to Necheele, in order to see the place, and to buy something, that being their market-day. Though but a poor village, its bazar or market-place was stocked with variety of provisions, and other wares, every article cheap, though there was no great plenty of any. This market is held every eight days. All that could be saved in the week is carried thither; and on account of the universal poverty in those parts, what each particular brings, consists in general, of three or four fowls, half a dozen of eggs,

a little wheat, some lemons, and other such commodities. Each proprietor comes to market with his little effects, none daring to trust his neighbour with them; by which means there are commonly as many vendors as articles to be sold.

MONEY is scarce in the country; therefore four parats pass for five. Two fat sheep are sold for one hundred and ten parats, two fowls for ten parats, twenty eggs for one parat, and other things in proportion.

OUR people had a lucky day's sport: for among other things they brought home three caramans, a sort of bird of the size of a wood-cock, delicious to the taste; but still more valuable on account of its fine voice. The Turks give eight and ten sequins for them, when they have been caught young, and taught to sing. As to their beauty, it consists chiefly in fine large eyes, for their feathers are like those of a wild duck.

Sunday, December 1st.

A GENTLE gale arose: by its assistance we were just able to make sail, and get up by eight o'clock in the morning to Abutische, a considerable city on the west of the Nile; in it are some mosques.

WE next passed by Desnele, a village so called, and situate on the same side, but about a league in the country. The principal business of its inhabitants is to cut out men for eunuchs.

OVER against it, on the other side of the Nile, is Buet.

ABOUT a league and a half farther are two villages, to wit, Scherk Seliin, on the east side of the river; Bennifées, on the west side.

A LITTLE higher up, and on the same side, is Sylfa, a village, the residence of an Arabian-schech. Dueer-ait appears a little higher up, and about half a league in land.

A THIRD village follows, called Kardoos.

THERE are two others opposite to it; to wit, Merreschis, and Ell-Bedari: they are contiguous one to the other.

A LEAGUE higher, but on the west side of the river, is Neslet Ell-Hemma; and about the same distance higher still is Tame.

BETWEEN these two is an island, called Giefret Toma, half a league in length, and leans more to the east than the west side of the river; and takes its name from Toma, on the east side of the Nile, but somewhat

distant from it. Berdenis is a neighbouring village on the same side; as is also Gaufcherkie, that has succeeded to Little Diospolis. It contains yet an antient temple, near sixty paces long, and forty broad; it seems to be covered but with one large stone, supported by columns. Its cieling is so well preserved, that hieroglyphics thereon can be easily distinguished, and which were in great plenty. It has nothing else remarkable. The Arabians prize it so little, that they stable their cattle in it, which is the reason of its being almost full of sand and dung.

THE sides of this temple are open, and its colonnade entirely so. I owe this remark to the same person I have heretofore mentioned, and who had been on the spot the year before.

THERE is near the Gau Scherkie a canal, that tends to the north; but, probably from having been neglected, appears to continue but half a league into the country. On each side of it was a stone dyke, both which are now almost destroyed by the Nile, that has carried off the greatest part.

ON the other side of the river suc-

cessively appear Gau Ell-Gerbie, Mefchte, Schachtura, Schech Seinetdien, and Benges; five villages that have nothing remarkable. The third and fifth are more in land.

AFTER these comes Tagta, a city of a tolerable good appearance, from its mosques; and lies on the west side of the river. We left it at four in the afternoon. At about the distance of a league, on the same side, is Sovama, a village, where, on the west of the Nile, begins the territories of the prince of Achiin: as Rejegna, a village opposite to it, is the beginning of the same territory; on the eastern side of the river. This village lies at the feet of the mountains of the Grand Thebais, which is the cause of the barrenness of the place. The little land there tilled is dry; some date-trees notwithstanding thrive in the sand. Its greatest ornaments are its pidgeon-houses, which figure well to distant spectators. Its inhabitants chief support derives from their navigating on the Nile, for which purpose they have a number of barks. Their character still is extreme wickedness: they often rebel against their Emir, who is the prince of Achmiin.

AT seven in the evening we passed by Taberbuur, a village on the east side of the Nile; and soon after we passed by Maraga, a beautiful city, situate on the west side of the river, in a pleasant plain, where the best wheat in Egypt grows; but the neighbouring lands suffer greatly from the inundations of the Nile, which carries off a part of them every year.

WHEN we had doubled the point of about four leagues round, formed by the bank of the Nile, which elbows towards Maraga, we advanced over a similar space to an island called Giesiret Schendoviil, a short league in length.

ABOUT the same distance from the west side of the river, in land, is Gilean. Here the Nile makes a second elbow, indeed somewhat less than the former, and forms a third over-against the village of Suaedsch, on the west side of the river. Above it is a large canal, called Ell-Suhadischa, and runs from east to west.

ALMOST opposite to Suhaedsch appears Schech Haridi, celebrated for the tomb of a pretended Turkish saint. This tomb is made in the form of a small cupola, on the

top of the mountain. The ignorant people of the country give exaggerated accounts of miracles performed, which are executed by pious craft, and priestly legerdemain.

Monday, December, 2d.

IN the morning we found ourselves between Scheck Flaeck, a village on the east side of the Nile, and a Coft-convent, called Deir Ell-Abbia, on the west, and about half a league in land. Some of our company, who had formerly been at the convent, told us they saw there a cross, which is a remainder of an old church, built under the patronage of St. Helena.

JOURNEYING on we perceived on our right Barasbura, a village, with a mosque. Farther on are two more, Bibar on the east side of the Nile, and Ell-Sauuie, on the west. The wind was favourable, yet, notwithstanding, the bendings of the river frequently obliged us to have our bark towed along, in order to arrive at Achmin.

THIS city is situated on the east side of the Nile, where resides a prince of the same

name, it is large and adorned with several mosques: the Coftes have a convent there; and the fathers of the Propaganda are hospitable receptacles for those who may want it. Over-against this city is Meschie, on the west side of the river: we arrived there in the night, and had our bark made fast, as we intended to stay there some time.

ALL the barks that go up from Cairo to the cataracts; or that, from the cataract come down to Cairo, stop there, to take in provisions of bread and other articles: and this is certainly the most commodious place for so doing, it being midway, and every thing is sold very cheap.

THERE was a large camp without the precincts of the city, which we were informed was that of the bey of Girge, who was going to visit his domains. Wherever he stops, the neighbourhood is obliged to furnish him a certain quantity of bread, and other provisions; and that one place may not be more taxed than another, the number of days of his abode, in each, is fixed. He does not return to Girge till towards the end of December; and even

then he is obliged to camp without the city. And though Girge be his residence, he is not allowed to stay there longer than three or four months each year.

His tent was distinguished from the rest by forty lanterns hanging before it in a chequered form. Some of our company had recommendatory letters to him; but the delivery of them was judged unnecessary, as nothing was wanted, and as we were informed he was to decamp next day.

Tuesday, December 3d.

WE remained all that day at Meschie. Our Reis went thither at the break of day to have bread baked for himself and his crew. We were also careful to take in some, because our provision of biscuit diminished. Bread is not to be had there ready made: this is the method followed by those who want some. They go to the market, and buy corn; it is from thence carried to the horse-mill to be ground: but if this mill cannot dispatch it soon enough, being already engaged to other customers; then they parcel it out to several by bushels, who grind it with querns

or hand-mills, there being scarce a house without one. After they have got their flour, they give it to women, whose business it is to work and make bread of it; which is speedily executed by them, although their baking-utensils are not the most commodious, nor in the best order. Their ovens are remarkably little, made of mortar, and heated with straw. Notwithstanding, their bread (though somewhat Arabian) is pretty well made. Their manner is not very nice. Their dough is very soft, nor is there ever any complaint of their bread being over-baked. Their cakes are generally good, when eaten new; but when not of the baking of the day, a strong appetite is necessary to relish them.

I WENT to the Bazar or market-place, which I found better stocked than any I had hitherto seen. The frequent arrival of barks contributes to render Mesehie commercial. From the neighbouring places necessities are brought thither, because the people are always sure to meet with chapmen. Every thing there is sold at reasonable rates. We bought the sucking calf of

a Buffle for forty parats; poultry two parats a piece; and other articles in proportion.

THIS place is famous for a sort of conserve made there in great quantities, highly esteemed by the Turks and Arabians, on account of its sweetness.

As I walked along the Bazar, I met two of their pretended saints, attendant on the market; they were stark naked, and ran like fools through the streets, shaking their heads, and roaring as loud as they could.

THE next curious figure was a harlot; her face and breasts were exposed; the smock she had on was white, whereas that of other women is blue. Her head, her neck, her arms, and her legs, were decked with variety of trinkets. But all those ornaments did not characterise her so much as her impudent air, and lascivious gestures, whence it appears that this sort of creatures have a general mark by which it is known in all countries. This moreover had an extraordinary mark for one of her profession, which was extreme ugliness.

BEFORE I have done with Meschie, I must say in its praise, that in it are a great number of very fine pigeon-houses, and a mosque with very large burying-places, in which are several monuments erected in honourable remembrance of the deceased. This last distinction is entirely owing to its elevated situation, on which account the dead are carried thither from all the neighbouring places, that they may not be exposed to the annual overflowing of the Nile.

THE Coft-Christians, as well as the proselytes of the Propaganda, have in this city, and throughout all the states of Emir Achmiin, very great privileges. They are not afraid there to strike a Mussulman, which in other parts would endanger the striker's life.

DURING the two days we delayed at Meschie, we saw a great number of barks arrive; they were all on the same errand we came, to wit, to take in provisions.

Wednesday, December 4th.

OUR necessary acquisitions having been all brought on board, we sailed about eight o'clock in the morning, and soon got up

with two villages, on the west side of the Nile; one is called Gharaffe. The other El Haigua; but the latter is about a league in land.

WE after passed between four other villages, to wit, Galefmund and Tug. Both on the west of the Nile. The two others on the east side are Ell-Asavvie and Ell-hauvie.

A LITTLE above this village is the eastern extremity of the territories of the prince of Achmiin.

WE had on our right Afferat; and after Ell-Ghoraen. Above which is the western extremity of the states of the said prince.

OPPOSITE to Ell-Goraen is Deir Melac, where the Costes have a convent; there is also a burying-place for the Christians of Girge.

WE afterwards sailed between two places, of which, one is but a village, called Scharaque, yet famous on account of the asylum the Turks dissatisfied with their government, or from any other motive, find there. The Arabians that live there maintain their liberty so well, that they pay tri-

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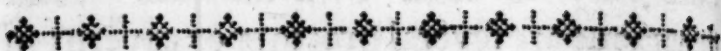
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bute only to their own Schech. Near Scharaque are several grottoes or caverns in the mountains, but it was impracticable for me to see them.

THE other place that lay to our right was, Girge or Tschirche, I went ashore to view this city, which may be called a large one. Here resides the bey or governor of Upper Egypt, of which this is the capital. The Turks have several mosques there. It is also the residence of a Coft-bishop. The fathers of the Propaganda have a receptacle of hospitality, and support themselves therein by practising physic, which renders them necessary to the Turks. Notwithstanding their services they are liable to continual insults; and sometimes to rigorous persecutions.

THOUGH Girge be stiled the capital of the Turks in Upper Egypt, it is also, in a manner, the limit of their dominions there, for higher up the inefficacy of their power is obvious. The Arabians do not hesitate to protect those who have offended the Turkish government.



*The Author's Journal from GIRGE to
ESSUAEN.*

Thursday, December 4.

WE failed from Girge the 4th in the evening, but were becalmed in the night. We put some of our people ashore, in order to get some wood, and bid them meet us at Bagjura, about ten leagues higher. We jogged but slowly on, by reason of the little wind we had to aid us. We saw on our left the mountains called Sherck Uladiachchia.

FROM Sharaque they begin to approach nearer to the Nile. They occupy a vast tract of land, independent of the Turks, and ruled by Arabian chiefs, who are its sovereigns. No tribute is paid there. If any malecontent flies thither for an asylum, from Cairo, or any part of Egypt, he is sure to find it; no person daring to pursue him into those territories, where even the Turks are afraid to land.

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Neslet Affcheriff, and Sau-Adne, both inconsiderable.

AFTERWARDS were reached Bardis, a handsome city, which is embellished by a fine mosque, and on its south side has a canal that goes far into the country, even to Barasbura, Ell Turaet, and to Ell-Kebira, &c.

WE saw also on the same side, Ell Magasch, Belliene, Bennier-Akaep, Scheck Bereeck, Schenine, and Samhuud, all villages; the first is about a league distant from the Nile. Belliene, heretofore figured as a city, had a mosque, but is now entirely ruined.

ON the other side of the river, opposite to Samhuud, is Ell Bellabiisch, a plain village. A little above it is the island Giesfret-Abdelkadir, about two leagues in length, lies north and south, with a village on it; over-against which is another, called Nerar-Nisch, situate on the east side of the Nile.

OPPOSITE to the southern point of Giesfret Abdelkadir, are two other villages, Baganes, and Beniberfa; the former on the western; the latter on the eastern side.

HAVING with much difficulty got by

Beniberfa, on account of the sand-banks, which were very high then, and are always so in that time of the year; on our left appeared Ell-Umbiir, a village, with a mosque. As we advanced, we saw four villages, Schechmebadir, and Ell-Gouafa, on the east of the river; and Alkilluug, and Savaggel, on the west.

A LITTLE higher, on the same side, is the village Sagh Ell, Bagjura. Between which and Savaggel, is a canal, called Maharakka. Not far from Sagh Ell Bagjura is the city Bagjura, at a small distance from the Nile, and pretty large, which is owing to its being near the canal Maharakka. It has a mosque. Our people, whom we had put ashore, joined us here, and brought us wood, which was very acceptable, on account of the great scarcity of it on board.

WHILE we were at Bagjura, fifteen Janissaries came to our bark, and demanded a passage. The reys refused them, and alledged for reason, that pursuant to his bargain with the Franks, who had hired her for the trip, he could receive no person on board, without their previous consent.

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The Janissaries made light of, and laughed at his answer, said they were going to fetch their baggage, and that if they should find any opposition to their going on board, they would force their way.

As soon as we returned from Bagjura, the reys informed me of what had happened, on which I bid him bear away immediately; which sudden departure saved us, no doubt, from very bad company, and, perhaps, from very perilous consequences.

Friday, December 6.

WE sailed all that night. The first place we passed by was the island Giesfret Nejagheye. On it is a village about three quarters of a league in length; it is opposite to Attariff, a village on the east side of the Nile. There begin the mountains of Tschibel Monna.

OVER-AGAINST the island Giesfret Nejagheye, westward of the river, about a league in land, is seen the city Farsivut, where there is a mosque, and the missionaries of the Propaganda have one of their receptacles of hospitality.

ON our left two villages appeared, El-

lakturaes, and Selemie, facing two others named Dirp, and Hau.

IN the morning we found ourselves lying before Shaurie, a village westward of the Nile. Being becalmed, I was resolved to profit of the occasion, and go see the ruins of a temple in the neighbourhood of Hau; but being afterwards informed that there was at that time a convention of three or four hundred of their Mahometan saints, followed by a multitudinous crowd, I thought it prudent to desist. A Janissary solicited us to grant him a passage at Shauric, which we readily did. He was making his escape for having killed one of the fifteen Janissaries that would forcibly come on board the bark. He was very much hurt himself. He was a brave fellow, and was several times of great use to me, when the Arabians would fain hinder me from contemplating the ruins of antiquity.

THE wind freshening in our favour, we sailed. The Nile in those parts is very irregular, in regard to its bendings, and its breadth. Its bottom we observed to be very clear; and therefore without any difficulty passed by the four following villa-

ges on our left, Ell Gaeffer, Gasseruseiaed, asenie, and Fau. And at the same we left three more on our right, Reiesie, Netzsche Ell-Abiid, and Dinedera.

WHEN we had passed the last, we saw several crocodiles stretched upon sandbanks, that the fall of the waters of the Nile had left dry.

WE soon after came up with three villages more on the same side, and called Cassarna, Senaepfi, and Ell Wokf. The last is remarkable, for that in its neighbourhood ends the territory of the Arabians, called Havara. Over-against the second is another village, Dischne, or Deheischne, a name which signifies Admiration, was given to it, for this reason, because the Arabians going up the Nile were very much embarrassed here, to know towards which side they should turn when they had a mind to pray; thus far they were guided by the course of the river, which they knew to be from south to north, consequently the sun rose on their left, and set on their right; but here the case was altered: from the Nile's having made a great bend, they saw the sun rise on their right, which so asto-

nished them, that they gave this place the name of Deheischne, or Admiration.

NEAR it we saw several float-boats, made of earthen pots and fascines; two men suffice to manage one of them.

ABOUT eight o'clock in the evening we were becalmed; and seeing ourselves borne back by the current, we anchored on the eastern shore of the river, along which spreads a barren plain.

THE next village to us was Merafchdeh; and opposite to it, on the other side of the Nile, the village Saecida.

Saturday, December 7.

OUR folks went ashore early in the morning to procure some wild-fowl. They only met with a prodigious quantity of sparrows; they fired at, and killed a great many; they gathered an hundred of them; they were very meagre, and very bitter to the palate.

AT eight o'clock in the morning we quitted this barren place, and soon came up with the village of Dar, on the eastern bank of the Nile, and opposite to Magd-scher, the name of a great road that goes from east to west.

WE passed by on our left the village of Ell-Gaeffer.

WE afterwards came a-breast of Dandera, a city, with a mosque. It is without doubt the remains of ancient Tentyra, of which Strabo, Pliny, and some other authors have spoken; and agreeable to the suggestion, I was informed, that there was yet an antient temple to be seen. I had a strong inclination to go to it, but there was no persuading our reys to put ashore, which made me lose an opportunity I have ever since regretted.

THE city of Dandera is very pleasantly situated; for the space of two leagues along the Nile, and far in land, is a continuation of fruit-trees, and of every sort which Egypt produces. The trees were all green, and some blossomed as in spring.

A LITTLE higher, on the east side, is the village Kenauvie.

AT two o' clock in the afternoon the pasha obliged us to moor a little below Cienne, or Kiene; a city, which, though not very considerable now, has a mosque. It was formerly very commercial, by means of a road to Cossir, a port on the Red-Sea,

whither travellers reached in three days across the deserts of the Thebaid; but the road is now infested with robbers.

HAVING heard a great deal of the antiquities of this place, I went thither, but saw nothing. The natives of the place could not give me any information. In vain did I look for the course of the ancient canal on which was carried the intercourse of trade to the Red-Sea, and back again; could not discover any track of it in the city, or its environs. In this city is annually celebrated the great festival, at which the bey of Girge commonly assists, having previously obtained permission of the princes, or Arabian shechs.

THE environs of this city were covered with all sorts of plants, as gourds, colicquintidas, and many more unknown to me. As I saw no corn, I imagine it has been reaped, and that those plants were the second production of the earth.

IN the neighbourhood of the city are several ponds, wherein water is preserved after the inundation: it is not drinkable, having a brackish taste it imbibes from the ground it is hemmed in by. The inhab-

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MR. NORDEN.

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ants use it to water their lands, and furnish drink to their cattle.

Sunday, December 8.

WE had sheered off at nine o'clock the evening before, and continued sailing all night, during which time we passed by three villages on the east side of the Nile; to wit, Assalie, Ebbenuut, and Ell-Baruut.

OPPOSITE to the last of these places is Tiuraet, a simple village. Hereabout begin the habitations of the Arabians, called Schoraffa, which signifies princes, or gentlemen.

A LITTLE above it, the Nile winds about considerably; when we had come round that bent in the morning, we found ourselves between two villages; one is called Shech-Hie, on the east-side; the other Ell-Ballaes, on the west.

A LEAGUE farther are two other villages; to wit, Haradschie, on our left; Tuug, on our right.

NEAR the latter we landed, in order to see it: but meeting with nothing remarkable, we did not delay there above half an hour; then embarked, and continued our course.

WE immediately saw on the east side of

the river the village Koft; and soon after Kos, with a mosque, and situate on the same side.

WE afterwards reached Ghattara, on the west side.

ABOUT four o'clock in the afternoon, we were a-breast of the village Ell-Hella, on the left, leaving at the same time on our right Nagadi, which may be called a large city, and has several mosques. As soon as we had arrived there, the Arabian schech had our reys summoned, to inform him who were the Franks he carried. His reply was, that we were merchants, protected by Osman Bey, from whom we had recommendatory letters. The dey said he did not believe him, but that on the contrary, he had heard several dangerous rumours relative to us; and that we had evil intentions against the country. But as all the allegations of the reys in our behalf seemed to be of no avail, we sent one of our drogmans to the schech, with a letter to him from Osman Bey. Having read it, he witnessed some surprize that Osman Bey should have given such recommendations, as impowered us to go to places where access should be denied to all

Franks.---He proceeded no farther in the affair.

THERE are many Coftes at Nagadi, and one of their bishops. They are far from being friends to the Franks, but on the contrary, let slip no occasion to do them an unkindness. We remained all night in this city, and a part of the next day.

Monday, December 9.

WE were harrassed that day by a mob of Christian Coftes, who had drawn along with them a crowd of Arabians. They ranged themselves over-against our bark, and at first seemed to contemplate us with great surprize; but on perceiving that no effort was made to disperse them, they became more insolent, and so far, as to dare to come on board, where they rummaged every thing. Our bark had the appearance of a market-place, some coming, others going. We could not imagine what had caused this general curiosity, having met nothing like it in any other part of our journey. But as soon as our reys returned on board, he explained the mystery to us, declaring that those troublesome visitants, on seeing our coffers, and kitchen-utensils,

had concluded the former to be filled with gold and silver, and that all the tin, pewter, and brass vessels were made of either of those metals; that a general rumour being spread among them of our having immense riches, there was no safety to venture farther up the Nile: He then proposed our returning to Cairo, asserting at the same time, " They will kill you and me, in order to make themselves masters of those treasures they imagine you have. They will cause it to be reported over all the country; so that if you escape in one place, you will certainly perish in another. The Arabians are wicked enough to execute such dark designs." Our poor reys, not able to recover from the panic he was struck with, earnestly solicited, and for a long time, that we should return to Cairo: but we were deaf to all his remonstrances. By way of encouragement, we told him, that we feared nothing, being well armed; that no person should offer the least injury to him or them, but at the immediate peril of his life; and that we were absolutely determined to go up as far as the cataract. Our intrepidity, and re-

peated assurances of defending his life, as well as our own, recovered him a little, and his answer of consent was, *Inschallah*, God grant it.

To confess the truth, the Cost-gentry did us a great disservice; for ever after we could not land any where, without being besieged by crowds. The reports hatched against us at Nagadi, foreran us every where; so that we should have been exposed to many accidents, but that we were continually on our guard. The worst of all was, our reys having become so extremely timid, as to tremble at the bare mention of putting to land; nor could it be done without compulsion in those places, where there was any thing worth seeing. Many were the difficulties we had to overcome.

In fine, about six o'clock in the evening we sailed from Nagadi, and soon came up with an island on the east-side, called Giesret Metera, about three quarters of a league in length, with a village on it. Its highest recommendation is, its being the ancient island Talenna, whereon St. Pachome built the first monastery of his con-

gregation. The ruins of it are still to be seen over-against the village Meneschia, on the west side of the Nile.

ABOUT half a league higher we sailed between two villages, Demefig, and Gierajoes; the former on our right, the latter on our left. There being scarce any wind, we put ashore near Gierajoes.

Tuesday, December 10.

THE calm obliged us to remain there all night; a little wind springing up with the dawn we sailed; but being soon spent, we were towed up to Soes, a village on the west of the Nile. Above it we were often aground, but received no other damage, except that of greatly fatiguing our men in getting the bark off, which obliged us to stop again. Our reys, not rid of all his impressions of fear, anchored near some islands that, since the fall of the Nile, were higher than the present level of its water. Here we were not far from the village Gamola, on the west side of the river, and opposite to another on the east, called Schenhuer.

THREE or four crocodiles, by chance, had chosen for their retreat those little is-

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lands we lay anchored off. We fired at them; two instantly plunged into the water; one seemed to remain without any motion. We imagined that we had killed, or at least wounded him severely, wherefore we ordered our bark to bear on him, and were armed with poles, and other instruments, with which we intended to dispatch him, in case he had not been already dead; but when we were within fifteen paces of him, awakened by our noise, he started away, and dived like the others. He was about thirty feet long. We saw that day twenty other crocodiles, stretched on sand banks, and of different extent, from fifteen to fifty feet.

THE lands hereabout appeared to be pretty well cultivated; we remarked among other articles of its produce, Turkish corn, sugar-canes, lupines, &c.

We saw that day a floating-boat of straw, buoyed up on gourd-bottles, and conducted by two men.

Wednesday, December 11.

WE sailed about twelve o' clock; the wind, though not strong, was favourable; so that we got soon between Ell-Kerne, and

Damamin, two villages; the former on the left, the latter on the right side of the river.

A LEAGUE farther we saw on our left Magdsher, a plain village; and a little after, on our right, the ruins of a city, called Medinet Habu, about half a league inland.

HIGHER up we passed between two inconsiderable villages, Kurnabilal, and Ghossem. The former on the western, the latter on the eastern side.

ABOVE them we reached the village Ell-Akalita, on the west side of the river, and almost facing Carnac; the name of a large tract of ground on the east side of the Nile, where there is no making a step, without meeting remarkable ruins that cover a space of above three leagues square, and reach to Luxor, or Lukoreen.

THAT I may not do things by halves, I shall treat those ruins collectively.

IT was four o' clock in the afternoon, when I began to perceive, on the east-side, an obelisk: a little after I discovered a great number of peristils, some portals, and an-

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tique structures, confusedly scattered up and down the plain.

FROM these signs, I immediately concluded that I saw the ruins of ancient Thebes; but I could not prevail on our reys to put me ashore, by fair words, promises, or menaces. He did not here plead his fear of the Arabians; his only excuse was, the impossibility of landing, on account of the islands and sand-banks that obstructed. He swore, moreover, by his beard, that there was no going thither, without making a great round by land. In my return I landed at Carnac, and also at Luxor.

I HAD a strong desire to design the hieroglyphics, with which most of these fragments of antiquity are covered; but more time than I could spare, and more conveniences than I was furnished with, were requisite for such an undertaking.

Thursday, December 12.

ON the eve, towards night, we had our bark made fast on the west shore of the Nile, over-against Carnac, which is pretty near 135 common leagues off France above Cairo. I rose with the day, in order to see

if there were not on that side some remains of antient Thebes. I did not go far before I met two great colossuses, which at first I took to be those Strabo makes mention of; but I had good reason afterwards to think otherwise.

ENCOURAGED by this first discovery, I returned for my arms, and the company of those whom curiosity might incite to be of the party. The reys perceiving our design, spared no pains to thwart it, nay employed all his eloquence to intimidate us. But when he found his representations had no weight with us, he had recourse to another stratagem, which he thought would prove more effectual to deter us, which was to swear, that if we went ashore, he would go homeward with his bark, and not wait for our return. But he was made to understand our fixed determination, and that if he dared to fail off, as he threatened, that we should certainly overtake him, and make him pay dearly for his insolence. This threat had the desired effect on him; for he changed his note, humbly conjuring us not to land, for the sake of him: for, said he, "If your good fortune make you

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“escape from danger, you expose me to
“the greatest perils hereafter; for when-
“ever I shall have occasion to sail up this
“way, and go ashore, the inhabitants will
“fall upon me unmercifully, for having
“brought strangers into their country, to
“carry away immense treasures from them:
“there will be no persuading them to the
“contrary.”

I WAS too much used to such arguments to heed them. The Janissary heretofore mentioned, who loved resolute attempts, and from his station, thinking himself more privileged than others, threatened the reys, and accompanied me ashore; some of our people followed us, we traversed the country, taking the two mentioned colossuses for our guides.

WE had not above a league of road to make, if we could have gone in a strait line; but the country was so interrupted with canals, and covered with Turkish corn, that we were obliged to make several rounds: we spent three hours before we reached the colossuses. The place whereon they are erected, as already observed, is above a league from the Nile, on a sandy

plain that rises towards the feet of the mountains.

ABOUT two hundred paces from the colossuses, on the east and on the north-side, are the ruins of several statues broken down; on the south at the distance of half an hour's walking, are other ruins, both antient and modern.

THE colossal figures look towards the Nile. One represents a man, the other a woman, their dimensions are similar and their size prodigious. They are about fifty Danish feet high from the basis of their pedestals to the summit of their heads. It was by their shadow I determined this measure; for on my applying my pole to it, I found that from the soles of their feet, to their knees, were included fifteen feet in length, which makes good my calculation; for by analogy with the common proportion of man, the height of each figure, including its pedestal, must be 50 feet.

THEY are seated on stones almost cubic, fifteen feet high, and as many large, comprehending the Iliac figures that serve for ornaments on the sides of each stone.

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THE back part of each stone is a foot and a half higher than the fore part.

THE pedestals are each five feet high, thirty-six and a half long, nineteen and a half wide.

THE distance from one statue to the other is twenty-one paces.

THEY both consist of several blocks of a sort of a greyish gravel stone, and seem to have been brought from the caverns which abound in the neighbouring mountains.

THEIR breasts and legs are covered with many Greek and Latin inscriptions, that have been graved thereon in the time of the Romans.

THE back part and sides of the chairs on which they are seated, are covered with hieroglyphic figures, which in general are very like each other, though there be some difference in the particular form of the characters. Moreover there is on each side a Term. The chairs seem to be made of one piece, and of the same kind of stone with the rest. They indeed appear to be somewhat browner and harder.

THE two Isiac figures, which, (as already observed) are the advanced side-ornaments,

seem to be whiter, and of a finer grain than the rest, which gives room to a surmise, that though they are adjusted in the antient Egyptian taste, they have nevertheless been fixed there, since the erecting of the statues.

I HAVE observed that the pedestals are as hard and as brown as the chairs. Their inscription consists of one line of hieroglyphical figures, and has been greatly injured by time and violent force.

THE colossal figures do not seem to have received any hurt from the hands of men; their being so much disfigured, and so deprived of their prominent parts, is the meer effect of all-consuming time.

ALTHOUGH the hieroglyphics are different in some places, yet the arrangement of them is similar in the general disposition; they are executed with elegance, symmetry, and well preserved. The two figures at the bottom are above the natural size; they seem to form a knot, and to hold fast the precepts prescribed by the hieroglyphics. They are wrought in Basso Relievo, do not seem to be an Egyptian

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work, and are entirely different from the rest.

THE inscriptions have been engraved to testify that the voice of Memnon had been heard.

WE went afterwards to the ruins on the north-side, not far from the colossal figures. There is no room to doubt but that they are the remains of the palace of Memnon.

THE portico of the temple alone is enough to give us a grand idea of Egyptian architecture; each column has over its capital small square stones, which serve as beams, on which larger blocks of stone rest: all that is visible of them is covered with hieroglyphics, which have an additional lustre from the most lively colours incrust-ed thereon; some of the blocks are forty feet long, and two thick in every sense. Above those stones are other large ones in a transverse position, and joined to each other like planks; all that can be seen of these stones in the platform is covered with hieroglyphics.

Two sorts of columns are to be observed in this edifice; their thickness and solidity

gives them a fine appearance to the distant beholder, whose eye drawing nearer is pleased with a view of the hieroglyphics, and when close by, delighted with the beauty of the colours.

THIS kind of painting has neither shade nor gradation, the objects are incrustated as the figures are on the dial-plates of watches, with this difference, that there is no detaching of them. I must confess that this incrustated matter surpassed for strength, any thing I had ever seen of the kind. It is far above the Al-fresco, and the Mosaic, and lasts longer. It is somewhat surprising how the gold, the ultramarine, and several other colours, have preserved their lustre to this day.

I OBSERVED that the hieroglyphics in those buildings had not the same appearance of more antient pieces, nor is there that exactness of proportion the Greeks and Romans were wont to give their figures.

ON the inside, upon the western hall, leaning towards the north, are three large figures with the faults I mentioned. I believe they were designed as an allusion to

the fall of Adam and Eve. There is the representation of a green tree, and on the right side of it a man sitting, who seems, with an instrument he has in his right hand, to defend himself against a little oval figure, covered with hieroglyphical characters, which is offered to him by a woman, standing on the left side of the tree, whilst with the other he accepts the present. Behind the man stands a figure, the head covered with a mitre, and stretching out a hand to him. I could find no connection in the rest, most of the figures resembling rather amorous devices, or the representations of some heroic achievements.

BUT to return to the architecture of the edifice, it is to be observed that on the east and west-side there is a wall, that serves for an enclosure; but on the north and south are two colonnades. The exterior columns are neither so high, nor so well ornamented, as the middle ones. They are without capitals, a kind of swelling is on the top, which produces pretty near the same effect as that of the thick end of a large club or mace. The one and the other sort are covered with hieroglyphics.

THERE ought to be one and twenty columns on each side, there are but two and thirty standing. The deficiency is on the north-side.

THOSE in the middle being the tallest, raise the platform higher than the galleries are. Their circumference is four and twenty Danish feet, their height in proportion.

THERE is no seeing the floor, it being covered with ruins, and with sand three or four feet deep.

ABOUT fifty paces from this edifice, are other remains of antiquity, that seem to have been a gallery all round the court; and are the more worthy of being noticed, as they seem to be those Philostrates has spoken of, where he treats of the temple of Memnon, in the life of Apollonius.

I SAW four pilasters made of several pieces of the stone above-mentioned. Each pilaster is ornamented with a Term, the arms folded, and in the right hand a sort of hook; though their heads are knocked off, there remains on their shoulder, a part of the common head-dress of Egyptian figures.

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four pilasters, which are also covered with hieroglyphics.

THERE stand over-against them four pilasters, similar to those I have described.

BEHIND the gallery is a wall in a very ruinous way: it is visible that the upper part of the wall was joined to the colonade with large stones, by which means was contrived a walk, sheltered from the sun.

THERE are also two pilasters too far separated from each other to have been covered; whence it follows, that if this was the place whereon Memnon's statue had been erected, it must have stood uncovered, and in open air, which appears the more probable, as it could by that situation better receive the rays of the sun.

I SAW the fragment of a colossus over-set, and half buried. We could not discover enough of it to judge whether it had been sitting, and in a like attitude with those above-described. The upper part is wanting, and seems to have been severed by force, as appears by many marks. The entire body of the colossus seems to be of one piece of black granite marble. Its pedestal is in a manner entire, and on it are

some hieroglyphics, such as knives, semi-circles, and other figures.

ALL these concomitant testimonies seem to point to us, that it is here we must seek for the vocal statue of Memnon, mentioned by Strabo, Pausanias, Philostrates, Lucian, Juvenal, Tacitus, and several other ancient authors, Greek and Latin; for my part I dare not assert, but leave it to the more learned to determine.

BECAUSE that most of the authors have related the wonder of Memnon's statue rendering a sound at the rising of the sun, to satisfy my curiosity, I struck the remains of this colossal figure with a key; but being all solid, I found it as dumb as any block of granite buried in the earth. The sepulchral urn in the first pyramid sounds nevertheless like a bell; but observe, it is hollow.

THERE is here another colossus entire, and made of one piece of granite marble, of a middling height, now thrown down, lies on its face, and is half buried in the earth: all that can be seen of it seems to be no way damaged. Its attitude is the

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same with that of those already mentioned.

I SAW the head of a coloffus, dressed in the Egyptian manner, two feet high, made of black granite, in the true antient taste, executed with great art and elegance, and is notwithstanding so pleasingly simple, as to make us conclude, that the whole must have been the work of some great master. There are no other remains to be found of it at present; they are, perhaps, with many more, buried under the sand.

WHEN I had viewed all that seemed worthy of my attention, I, with my company, took the road that leads to the mountains, went into several of the caverns, and afterwards came to Medinet Habu, a ruined city now, and had been built westward of the Nile three quarters of a league in land, and on a part of the ruins of Thebes. We there saw an ancient and magnificent portal; the Arabians make it serve for a gate to the city; it faces the Nile, is well preserved, and of uncommon beauty.

WE got over some little hills, made of the ruins and the sand, and came to a square that seemed as a kind of anticham-

ber, relatively to the portal, and built with large blocks of white stone, each as high as a man. Some remains, rising above the ground, are yet visible: the superior part is a plain cornice. Over-against the portal is a pretty large opening, and on each side of it a fragment of a wall covered with hieroglyphics. This square does not terminate at the portal, but at the walls of the ancient city, some remains whereof are still to be seen northward of the portal. The face of the square has no cornice, and the piece of a wall near its aperture is also covered with hieroglyphics.

ABOUT a dozen paces farther on are two columns, made of several large stones, without hieroglyphics; but their channelled capitals are incrusted with colours, very pleasing to the eye, though not executed according to the rules of any order of architecture.

HAVING passed the columns, we were obliged to clamber over several large blocks of stone that obstruct the passage to the portal: they abound in hieroglyphics. Among other things, I observed four frizes

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of a greyish stone, with vinettes in Basso-Relievo. They were on the ground among other ruins. I was the more smitten with them, for that they appeared to me to be a Roman work, ornamented on the middle with the heads of a Diana and a Bacchus; the rest covered over with vine and oak leaves. I saw nothing like them far or near in the ruins, or any edifice where those friezes could have served. Every thing else was Egyptian, or Arabian architecture; the chief material of the latter is mud, &c.

THE architrave of the portal has two friezes, one on the top of the other; it is polished, and forms a pretty large opening, the frontispiece hath greatly suffered; I notwithstanding discovered the wings of the dragon, such as are seen on many other edifices. I also observed the remains of that sort of cartouch, which was a favourite ornament among the Egyptians. All this was in Basso Relievo, and incrusted with colours.

ABOVE this opening is a small cordon, and round the portal a large border, full of hieroglyphics; interiorly it is covered

with large blocks of stone, forming a smooth platform, ornamented likewise with hieroglyphics.

I MUST not forget to mention the large stone over the architrave. We do not know its use. It is covered with very beautiful hieroglyphics.

THIS portal gone through, another is met, built in the same manner; that leads to a third; and this perhaps to a fourth, which is not very easy to ascertain, it being a difficult matter to get through the second; the third is filled up with, and almost buried in rubbish, at which curiosity must stop.

WE returned from thence to survey the buildings on the right hand of the portal. No appearance can be more magnificent: they are unluckily inaccessible, on account of the rubbish and ruins that choak the avenues to them.

Friday, December 13.

THE calm continuing, we were obliged to be towed, and passed by, on our right hand, two villages, Kurnabilal, and Ell-Akalita. Towards evening we came up with Nezletameris, on the same side. We

anchored near Ell-Tschelame, not an in-
considerable city, has a mosque, and is in
the neighbourhood of Armenut, which is
no more than a plain village now, though
it had formerly been the city called Her-
monthis. It contains some antiquities.

SAILING on we saw a number of Ara-
bian Costes scattered over the country.
Some of our folks put to shore, in order
to go to the nearest coast, there to procure
some corn for our poultry; but the Ara-
bians here never trouble themselves about
making any provision; they live from hand
to mouth, and having scarce any thing for
themselves, they have nothing to sell to
strangers.

SOME of our people fired at several cro-
codiles, without killing any; for those ani-
mals are so wary, that they do not suffer
themselves to be come too near to, but
make off before one can get within mus-
ket-shot of them.

Saturday, December 14.

No wind; we were towed from Arme-
nut to Ell-Restegæet, a village on the
same side. The ground between both a-
bout a league and a half in extent, is full
of antient remarkable ruins.

WE saw afterwards on the east of the Nile five villages, Hambdie, Madfcherga, rona, Tot, formerly Typhium, Senemie and Gibbaeg. The last of them lies over against the village Demegraed; and is on the ground where antient Crocodilopolis was. We anchored near it, and our folks who went ashore there killed several geese of the Nile.

THE lands about Demegraed seemed to have been neglected; they had not been cultivated since the last inundation of the Nile. They had been so parched by the sun, there was a multitude of crevices so deep, that I could not reach the bottom with a dart I had in my hand, six feet long; they were indeed preparing to till and six oxen yoked to a plow could but with great difficulty move the ground.

Sunday, December 15.

WE had a fair wind all night, but our reys was not in a sailing humour. At the break of day our people went ashore to shoot, so we did not set off till eight o'clock in the evening.

Monday, December 16.

WE sailed all night, and the wind con-

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tinued so favourable, that at five o'clock in the morning we had already passed by Mahamiid, Gerera, and Ell-Tschibbeleen, three villages on the east side of the Nile; the last is near half a league in land, and almost opposite to Schagab, a plain village; as is also Ell-Kiman, which we passed by soon after on our right.

A LEAGUE farther on we come up with Afs Fuun, a well looking city, with a mosque, is the capital of the valley of Mettani, and somewhat in land, on the west side of the Nile.

OPPOSITE to it, on the east side, is Magdschera-Dome.

A LEAGUE and a half higher up we saw a convent of Costes, called Deir Omali; and opposite to it the village Ell-Ardie.

A LEAGUE and a half farther on we saw Helle, a village over-against Efnay, which is a large city, with a mosque on the west side of the Nile, is the residence of an Arabian schech, and is thought to occupy the ground whereon ancient Latopolis stood. One of the fathers in our company, who understood Arabic, went ashore to deliver a letter to the schech from Osman Bey; but

he returned to us about an hour after, with the news of the schech's death, to whom the letter had been addressed; that his two sons were gone from Efnay; that there was only their cachef, just on the point of going away too, to view some of the domains; that he was then with his women, and consequently could not be spoken to.

IN the middle of Efnay is an antient temple, closed on three sides; its front is hemmed in by columns only, four and twenty in number, and seem well preserved.

A CHANNELED border runs all round the top of the edifice; but in the middle, which is the front of the temple, is a cartouch, or ornament similar to that on all the grand portals of Egypt.

A DEMI-CORDON borders the edifice, whose sides are covered with hieroglyphical figures, that seem to be of a very antient kind, and to have been dispatched hastily by workmen of great practice that way.

THE columns support stones transversely placed, and on which large tables are fixed, that form a cieling, adorned also with hieroglyphics, as are the sides. It may,

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notwithstanding, be readily observed, that the figures on the inside are of a more careful and masterly execution than those without; but none of those hieroglyphics are incrustated with colours. The columns also are covered with hieroglyphics, which in some places are very small, and very much crowded.

ONE article to be remarked is, that in this temple not one capital of a column is like unto another; though the proportions be similar, the ornaments are different. The interior of the edifice is blackened by the smoak of the fire that used formerly to be made there; all the other parts are very well preserved, except the gate, and intervals between the columns in the front; but that has happened through the base contrivance of the Arabians, who filled up all interstitial spaces, in order to shut up their cattle, to which use it is perverted.

IT is proper here to observe, that the parats are neither current at Esnay, nor above it; their commercial value of things is either rated by bourbes, twelve of which are equivalent to a parat; or sevillans, a piece equivalent to one hundred parats.

WOOD is so very scarce here, that we could get none for money.

THE Arabians, who live higher up than Efnay, are called Ababuda. They are rebellious in their nature, and are kept under by force.

AT six in the evening the cachef sailed from Efnay in a bark, two more full of soldiers attended him; his departure was proclaimed by the noise of drums in his bark. Two hours after we sailed with a favourable wind.

Tuesday, December 17.

WE had scarce gone half an hour's journey, when the wind ceasing, obliged us, after we had passed Duegg, a village not far above Efnay, on the same side, to put ashore near Serniig, another village on the east side of the Nile, and higher up than Duegg. We had scarce made our bark fast, when one of the two with the soldiers on board anchored along-side of us. We were no way pleased with our new neighbours, for they were so undisciplined, and so insolent, that it was very disagreeable to have any thing to do with them, which to avoid we took all the care imaginable: but luckily for us,

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in about an hour's time, the wind blowing afresh, we pursued our course.

IN the length of four leagues we met but the three following villages, Gafcheile, Messavie, and Ell-Adeime, all on the right; the two first half a league distant from the Nile; the last near it.

FROM Demegrael hither, and even higher up, the villages are thinner; they are separate one from the other, sometimes a league, a league and a half, two leagues.

WE saw next Kellabie, on our left; Kumber, on the right; Scheravina, on our left; Turraeg, on the right.

WE were interrupted in this part of our way, having twice struck upon sand-banks; it cost us a deal of time and trouble to get off.

WE after passed by Sibbage, Ell-Ganaan, and Ell-Bessalie, three villages on the west side; the last is higher up than Ell-Auvanie, on the east. Ell-Heiki is on the same side, situate at the feet of the mountains, which are so close to the river, that but a little space remains for tillage.

WE continued under sail all day, and passed by Saide, and Ell-Kilg. On our

right was Hellai, Ell-Kaep, and Attuaen, on our left.

AFTERWARDS we came up with Edfu, a city on the west side of the Nile, and is the antient Apollinopolis. There is in this city a considerable monument of antiquity. The Turks have made a citadel of it. Some pretend that it was originally built for this use, to me it seems more resembling a portal than a citadel.

THERE turns round it a cordon in the Egyptian taste. On the top of the edifice there is no cornice, which perhaps has been destroyed by the injuries of time. The structure in general is well contrived. Its simplicity contributes to its elegant appearance, on its fronts are three rows of hieroglyphical figures, that seem to be the representation of children whose stature exceeds that of men now-a-days.

THE south and north sides have but this difference; in the former are several windows, of which four below, made on the sides of the portal, are very high, and give a diagonal light, which falls obliquely.

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oned, and a favourite ornament in Egyptian buildings.

THERE is also at Edfu another monument of antiquity, consisting chiefly of the ruins of an antient temple of Apollo, the greatest part of which is now buried: the Arabians have degraded it into a few contemptible pigeon-houses.

HAVING left Edfu, we passed by two villages on the same side, to wit, Naggeh-Abdeddein, and Schech Tschiberim. We passed on our left three more, Ell-Behera, Redesie, and Ell-Boeeb or Seraik. In this place formerly had been a great number of Christians, it is now an almost ruined village.

HIGHER up we reached Selvah, a village on the east side of the Nile; and soon after we sailed between four more, to wit, Tschibeka, and Ell-Kajoudsche, on the same side. The two others called Romadie, and Ell-Hammaen, on the west side.

WE were then very near Tschabel-Efselfele, which signifies a mountain of the chain. According to the tradition of the country, the passage of the Nile was intercepted here by means of a chain. The bed

of the river is very narrow here, has on the east side the mountain Tschabel-Effelsele, and on the west a rock, which renders the thing feasible enough: one can now see the places marked on both sides where the chain is said to have been fixed across the Nile, that here is not above the length of a musket shot and a half broad. In the rock near whose summit the chain was fastened, twelve holes have been made one over the other for the conveniency of those who went on top of it. It is fifteen feet high, the summit ten. I observed there a large block of granite, covered with an ample inscription in hieroglyphical characters, some chapels made in the rock, and entire rocks of granite.

IN the neighbourhood of this place are many grottoes, the more remarkable, because their sides are all covered with beautiful hieroglyphics. On the inside of them I discovered four figures in Alto Relievo sitting, and of a natural size. Two figures of men, and two of women; the men, who are in the middle, have their arms across on their breasts; each woman holds the man next to her under the arm. How contemptible is the malice or superstition of

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the Arabians or Turks, that has so horribly disfigured them, especially in their faces!

THE hieroglyphical table near those figures is in Basso Relievo, and yet well preserved, though the rock wherein the chapels are be of a sandy yellowish grain. It is not at all improbable that the hieroglyphical table contains the epitaphs of the persons interred in this grotto.

A LITTLE above this remarkable strait, we observed that the Nile widened to its natural breadth, and we passed by two villages; one of them is called Fatira; the other is about a league higher, and named Ell-Gliid, both on our left; opposite to the latter, is Faris. Not far from it is an island on the east side of the Nile, called Mella; over-against it on the west side, is the village Amungaer.

STOPT by a calm, we anchored at two in the morning near another island not far from it, that is in the middle of the river, and called Mansoria.

Wednesday, December 18th.

THE island we moored at the preceding night, is not far from the village Bamban,

on the west side of the Nile, over-against Komombu, on the east side. The principal monument of antiquity here, is situate behind a sandy mountain, and on another side is hid by some miserable cottages, which the curious traveller overlooks, and contemplates with ample satisfaction those beautiful ruins.

THE building is raised on twenty-three columns well executed, and covered with hieroglyphics: the stones that roof it are of a prodigious size. It is obvious that the architrave, now split in two, consisted formerly but of one stone. Under its cornice is a cartouche, their favourite ornaments of portals: this indeed is peculiarly elegant.

ALL the stones are covered with hieroglyphics, of the same sort with those we saw on the ruins of Medinet Habu.

IT is to be lamented that this edifice cannot subsist long, which is deducible from its present state. It is scarcely seen on the sides. The top is already covered with earth, and the columns as well as the rest of the edifice are three quarters buried.

ABOUT fifty paces from thence, on the slope of a mountain, is another antique mo-

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nument above eighteen feet high, with a regularly squared nich in the middle, but larger above than below. Its sides are studded with hieroglyphics; those near the ground are spoiled; the back of it is hid in the sand.

THIS edifice was made with large square blocks, of a whitish stone, like to marble. It is hard to say what might have been the use of this monument. Perhaps it had formerly been an altar; that the table hath been since carried off, or fallen to ruin; nor is it unlikely that in the nich I have spoken of, an idol had been placed.

THE wind having sprung up, at eight o'clock in the morning we sailed: and after we had passed the island Ommelut, situate on the west side of the Nile, and near the village Rakkaba, on the same side, we perceived Derrau, over-against it; and then came up with Ell-Schech-Amer, a village somewhat distant from the east side of the Nile.

THERE are some ruins, which at first sight appeared considerable to me; but examining them attentively, I discovered them to be the remains of a modern build-

ing. They lie amongst a number of tombs of pretended Mahometan saints.

As we sailed on, we met an island called Gallagis; and opposite to it, on the west side, the village Ell-Kabonia. Here signal was made to us from shore, to bring our bark to, which our reys seemed not to like; but on seeing the people take arms, obeyed. The prince of this country was Ibrim, cachef in Nubia, and had received at Girge the caffetan from the bey.

THIS is the only mark of homage paid here to the Turkish government: force decides among the competitors who is to be appointed for the place, and he sent to Girge must absolutely be invested with the caffetan, by the bey.

OUR reys returned in an hour; said the cachef had enquired who we were; and on information of our being under the protection of Osman Bey, and that we intended to go to the second cataract, he charged the reys to give us the Lamalek, or Good-day. We sent him some bottles of liquor, and some tobacco.

AFTER which ceremony, continuing our course, we passed the village Ettueia, and

came up with Girbe, two villages situate on the east side of the Nile; but the latter has more attraction for the eye than the former. The ruins there are distinguishable by large blocks of square stone, not commonly used in Turkish buildings.

HAVING passed it, we uninterruptedly followed our course, leaving four villages on our left; to wit, Gannaek, Ell-Akabbe, Abusebera, and Captara. Above the last of them is the island Giesiret Beherif, near the eastern bank of the river.

A LITTLE farther, on the same side, after we had passed the village Ell-Toft, or Tessel, we arrived at eight o'clock at Essuaen. Our bark was anchored near the citadel.



*The Author's Journal from ESSUAEN to
DEIR, or DERRI.*

Thursday, December 19.

THE city of Essuaen, situate on the east side of the Nile, is now as inconsiderable as most of the villages of Up-

per-Egypt. It contains some mosques, has a citadel, wherein an aga resides: he there, at our arrival, was called Ibrahim. It is distinguished from other places in the same government, by the inhabitants not having any pigeon-houses on the top of their abodes, which gives so goodly an appearance to other villages.

WHAT makes this place most remarkable is, the first cataract beginning, or, if you please, ending near it, according as travellers go up, or come down, which is notified by rocks of granite in the middle of the Nile.

OUR reys, being a janissary, went to declare our arrival to the aga; and that Osman Aga, chief of the janissaries at Grand Cairo, had given us letters, which would be presented to him.

AT eight o'clock in the morning, two janissaries came on his part to invite us to the citadel.

HE treated us civilly, and a mutual interchange of presents followed.

HAVING spoke of camels, horses, and asses, which the aga was to furnish for money to carry us and our luggage to the

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first cataract, we asked him to be so kind as to let some one of his people accompany us, and that we should not only defray his expence, but also reward his trouble. He sent his brother to us, as the properest person, and we soon agreed about the price.

THE aga sent to inform us, that the letters he had promised would have been already written, but that he was unfortunately out of paper: we sent him some.

Friday, December 20.

AT eight o'clock in the morning one of the fathers, who spoke the Arabic, joined us at the aga's, to hasten our departure. The aga had bargained with the reys to carry us from the first to the second cataract, for four and twenty sevillans, besides some trifling presents. The reys begged some time to bake bread for him and his sailors. We also wanted some, therefore our departure was fixed for the following Sunday morning.

THINGS thus ordered, I went to a little island in the neighbourhood of Essuaen, and pretty near the west side of the Nile; its name is Ell-Sag. It is doubtless the same

island that the antients called Elephantine; its southern part is hilly, and full of ruins, of which little can be distinguished, they being mostly buried.

I OBSERVED one edifice yet standing, though its top and side were covered with earth; it is called The Temple of the Serpent Knuphis. To judge of it from its appearance, it has been rather a sepulchral monument than a temple.

BE that as it may, its enclosure all around forms a kind of cloyster, supported in length by columns. In its four corners is a solid wall, and in its breadth is supported but by a single column in the middle. This enclosure contains a large apartment, with two great doors, one to the south, the other to the north. It is filled with stones and earth. The walls, covered with hieroglyphics, are plaistered over with mud, and all blackened with smoke, caused by the shepherds having fires there.

WESTWARD, in the middle of this apartment, I observed a square table, without any inscription. I surmised that under it was an urn, or a mummy. I was strongly tempted to have the table raised; but

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the superstition not only of the people, but also of the government, were insurmountable obstacles. Travellers here must think themselves happy in being allowed to contemplate the ancient edifices, without daring to stir any thing. I shall never forget what a croud of people was assembled, while we were mooring at Essuaen, in order to see, as they said among themselves, expert forcerers in the black magic art.

THE length of the interior structure is about eighty Danish feet; its breadth twenty, as near as I could guess; to measure regularly would alarm the natives, and make them obstruct one's seeing any thing more. It is covered with hieroglyphics that seem to be of the most antient kind.

NOT far from it stands a pedestal, made of large blocks of a white stone, full of Greek inscriptions. I had not time to take copies of them.

WHEN I had done with Ell-Sag, I walked to the environs westward, in order to see the ruins of antient Syena, which Strabo, Pliny, and other Greek and Latin authors make mention of; for the most part they are inconsiderable. I observed some

modern ruins; an antique wall, built of large square stones, that formerly saved the land against the encroachments of the Nile. There yet peep out of the earth, a few tokens of the place whereon the ancient city, with its magnificent buildings, stood, which are now mostly covered.

HERE and there, where the ground is fallen in, are discovered in a confused manner some colonnades, with tables of granite, enriched with Greek inscriptions. The blocks employed in the buildings are of a whitish stone, not unlike to that of Bremen, though somewhat harder.

THE course by water to the first cataract is full of little islands, and rocks of granite, with which each side of the Nile here is covered. I observed also a mosque half ruined; an old citadel, behind which is a little bay, which on its south side is defended by a natural dyke, consisting of large granite stones, whereon are various hieroglyphics.

THE most remarkable part is an angular stone, which, besides hieroglyphics, has towards its bottom a square nich, with a kind of column in the middle. The de-

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grees that are cut in the stones of this nich made me conjecture, that formerly it served as a Mekkias, to mark the rise or fall of the waters.

THERE are also some considerable ruins of modern buildings.

Saturday, December 21.

THE aga's son, who was commandant and custom officer of the port of the cataract, with his companion, paid us a visit; said they would accompany us to the cataract; and that, pursuant to the aga's order, all conveniencies for carrying us should be ready next day. In return we thanked them, with coffee, and some trifling presents.

Sunday, December 22.

AT ten o'clock in the morning, the aga sent a guard of janissaries, to our bark, to prevent any injury being done to us at the unlading of our baggage. He soon after sent us thirteen camels, three horses, and as many asses as were thought necessary to carry every thing.

THE concourse of people was so great, in spite of the aga's precautions, that we were above two hours unpacking, and

packing anew, before we could set out. Though the aga's son, with his caffetan, seconded by his companion, both on horseback, conducted us, and prevented any disorder, that did not hinder the populace, who had gathered before our bark, to follow us half the way.

OUR road was on the east side of the Nile. After we had crossed a large plain, skirted all along with rocks, we came to a defile, through which one camel could hardly pass. The next thing we saw was a Turkish fort. We crept along a narrow road, that is continued on the side of the cataract. After about two hours and a half's travelling, we reached the harbour of Morrada, or the first cataract.

THERE we met the bark the aga had engaged for us; she was smaller than the former we had hired at Cairo; but when we had fixed our tent in it, it seemed convenient enough.

WE gave the aga's son, and his companion, seven sevillans for the custom-duty, and their trouble in accompanying us thither. They seemed by their looks to desire more: there is no satisfying the peo-

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ple of this country: we affected not to mind their dissatisfaction. The expence of carriage came to ten parats a camel, and three parats an afs. What they call camels here are dromedaries, that do not carry a great weight; and not above a sack load is carried by each afs, they are so little and weak.

Monday, December 23d.

THE Aga's son came early in the morning to take his leave of us. We discharged a janissary we had hired since our arrival at Essuaen; he seemed to be very well satisfied with one sevillan. The reys who had brought us from Cairo came also to take his leave of us; we presented him with a green coat, and some articles for his wife and children: the thirty feudouclis for our passage, had been paid to him before we left Cairo.

WHEN we thought to sail, we were told, it would be impracticable for three or four days, on account of the Rammadam that was begun; for by the prophet's law, it is forbid to begin a journey in the first days of this festival; and that was the

reason why our reys was not come on board.

ACCORDING to our bargain with him, he was to carry but our company and baggage; but the precaution here was as fruitless as a former one had been at Cairo; for, notwithstanding, we saw them embark salt and corn, that had been brought to the harbour on several camels. I complained to the pilot. His answer was, that the bark drawing but two feet of water, whereas she ought to draw three when properly ballasted, it was necessary to take those commodities on board; for that reason we consented. Our vessel's upper part having been a long time exposed to the heat of the sun, and open in most of her jointures, took in a great deal of water.

Tuesday, December 24th.

FINDING it impossible to procure any carriages, I resolved to foot it, and had a most agreeable journey, contemplating at leisure the cataract, and the rocks of granite that form it.

AFTER I had got on the sandy flat, I often stopt to view the hieroglyphics cut

in the very rocks, and large blocks of granite marble, that the ancients had begun to work upon, of which a great part remains unfinished.

As I advanced in this sandy plain, I met a large burying-place, full of stones with inscriptions on each. I took it at first for a Turkish cemetery; but, upon a closer examination, found I mistook: the tombs being almost alike, had nothing relative to those I had seen elsewhere; and not being able to form any judgment of the persons that could be interred there, I spoke to my Jewish valet, who could read the Turkish and Arabic languages, to try if he could decypher any of the inscriptions. His answer was, that there was not a letter resembling either the Turkish or the Arabic, and that he could make nothing of them. I desired him to learn what was the tradition of the country about them; according to which he told me, they are the tombs of the Mammehus, that had been destroyed when the calif came into Egypt.

FARTHER ON, I saw an antique gate, that had been ruined, and afterwards rebuilt;

it shewed more of the Saracen than of the antient Egyptian taste. It consisted of bricks baked before the sun, mixed with large stones of the Thebaid, and some fragments of columns; this mixture denoted its having undergone many revolutions.

I AFTER passed through a great quantity of ruins, whose anologous mixture proved them to be cotemporary with the gate. The whole was surrounded by a wall, in the same ruinous plight.

Wednesday, December 25th.

HAVING first paid a proper respect to Christmas-day, I employed it all in visiting the cataract; and in order not to alarm the country too much, I stole out with one of our company, who understood no more of the Arabic than I did.

I WENT to the place where I observed the day before, was the greatest fall of water. I was obliged to take round-about ways on the rocks that projected farthest into the river, and with difficulty escaped being wet. I continued making observations above an hour, without seeing any mortal; but having climbed on a rock,

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espied a man a fishing; I looked on him with pleasure; he perceived it, and brought me to a place where he shewed me, with a little hook, to catch excellent carps. I gave him some parats; and this small present, which was a kind of fortune to him, so far won me his affection, that he quitted his fishing to shew me all the accessible places. I spent four hours with him, and had sufficient time to observe the situation of this cataract, which, at the time I was there, had about four feet in its fall, and thirty in length.

FROM the top of one of the rocks I beheld the beautiful antique ruins of Giesiret Ell-Heist.

DURING this expedition, the weather being extremely hot, I almost expired with thirst, nor could I catch a drop of water to quench it, though in the midst of the Nile. The rapid escape of the water rendered the granite rocks so slippery, that I could not hold any water in my hand, and made several vain attempts. But, luckily for me, my guide of Barbary who was more expert at that work than I, put a stop to my efforts, lay on his belly, washed his hands,

then presented me some water in them, which I drank with inexpressible pleasure.

HE then conducted me to his cottage, in order to regale we with some dates, and a little milk. He shewed his furniture, of which an inventory could soon be made. One article he abounded in, was, naked children that ran about us. I made them happy with some trifles I gave them.

HE opened for me, as a farther proof of gratitude, one of his large jars, with a view of shewing me how corn is preserved in that country. He carried the carps to our bark, and returned next day with a present of milk. He acted so gratefully for my little beneficence, that I remembered him with pleasure. He was the first and last that did us any service, without asking the Backsich beforehand.

HIS foolish boasting of what I had given him, drew inconveniencies on my companions, who had a mind to repeat the scene I related to them.

I OBSERVED a plant that grows in those parts, called in Arabic Oschar, three Danish feet high: its stalk is strait, shoots out

from fifteen to twenty leaves, and bears three or four fruits, pretty near each other. The whole together forms a green nose-gay; for the stalk, the leaves, and the fruit, are of the same colour, green. Its flowers are as large as those of the cherry-tree, have five leaves, in the middle of which is a green pentagon, supported by five violet-coloured feet. The exterior of the flowers is white, the interior, half white, half violet. Its fruit is as large as a goose's egg, its figure not unlike a peach, with veins or ribs like those on leaves. It is almost filled with wind, that gushes out at the least opening made, then the skin wrinkles; the inside of the fruit is whitish, and has a kind of fibrous string like the melon. It contains a kind of bean, hairy on the outside; open it, you see another, on whose surface the seed, resembling melon pippins, is ranged like shells of fish. The interior one, on which the seed is found, is of a white and cotton like substance. From a rupture of the fruit, of the flowers, or of the branches, flows a white liquor bitter to the taste: strangers are cautioned to keep their eyes from it,

it being deemed by the natives very offensive to the sight, and at the same time a good preservative against the plague; they also frequently apply the leaves of the Ofchar, roasted before the fire, upon wounds.

Thursday, December 26th.

THE port is situate above the first cataract, and called, in the language of the country, Morrada.

I OBSERVED there two courses, formed by an island, and which facilitate the navigation up the Nile. To those got clear of that on the south side, appears the point of the island Ell-Heist, remarkable for its superb antiquities. There is also an anchoring-place for the barks that go to, or come from the second cataract: they are of a smaller size than that we came up from Cairo in; have but one mast, and draw scarcely more than three feet of water, when they are ballasted.

I SPOKE to our reys to sail betimes the following day, that we might stop for some hours at the island Ell-Heist. With some difficulty he consented, and we prepared every thing for our departure.

AMONGST other provisions, we had four or five sacks of wheat, partly for our own use, and partly to truck with for several articles the Barbarians will not always give for money.

Friday, December 27th.

AT eight o'clock in the morning, we sailed with a strong northerly wind; we cleared the harbour of the first cataract, and soon passed Garbelthees, a village on the west side of the Nile.

THE first object after that struck our view, was Giesiret Ell-Heist. This island is the Philo of the antients, on the east side of the Nile, and some distance from it: near this is another island much larger, but desert, and all covered with granite rocks: its banks are shaped like a wall cut in a rock; it contains many colonnades, edifices, and other most magnificent antiquities.

THE strength of the wind hindered our landing there. I observed as well as I could under sail, first a gate, or a kind of citadel; not unlike that heretofore described among the antiquities of Edfu; the former is better preserved. The hieroglyphics engrav-

ed thereon are like in size to those at Edfu, but differ as to their attitudes; some are sitting, their heads covered with mitres, others standing with arms in their hands, &c.

THERE is a kind of bastions or bulwarks that even now appear to be in tolerable good order. If the wall had not been down in some places, we should not so readily discover the columns within, that seem to be numerous, and of masterly workmanship.

ON a granite rock there, several hieroglyphics are cut, not unlike in manner to those at Essuaen.

ITS temple appears to be of uncommon beauty, is well preserved; its ornaments, as well as the capitals, are of the utmost delicacy.

I COULD see no more going up, but returning was more lucky. I silenced the opposition of our reys, by bribing his pilot with a sevillan, and one of our company got over his crew with another.

THE reys landed with the Aga's brother, and the janissary; they went by land to Essuaen. Whilst our Barbarians, ani-

mated by the present that had been given to them, rowed us most manfully, and soon made fast our bark at the island Ell-Heist.

It being late, we were obliged to defer our curiosity until next morning; the fineness of the night spurred my impatience. I asked if the island was inhabited, was answered, no. That sufficed to determine me to land. I took a lanthorn with me, and was followed but by one person of our company.

Our first care was to make the tour of the island, in order to form a general idea of the situation of the edifices.

We were not a little surpris'd on perceiving a great number of Barbarians cottages among those antiquities. We began strongly to suspect that our pilot wanted to play us foul. We still cautiously advanced, and not hearing any dog bark, by degrees dismissed our apprehensions; and were in the utmost security, when we found the cottages waste and abandoned.

We went to the great temple of Isis, a

most superb monument, which is now almost entirely standing.

WE from thence went to another temple, which, though a great deal less, is remarkable for its extraordinary beauty and taste. I believe this to have been the temple of the Hawk: Strabo mentioned one with that name. There are other temples, but I had not leisure to minutely examine them.

WITH the break of day I saw stairs, which made me conclude that there had been a subterraneous way throughout the island. I attempted to go down in several places; but found it impracticable, the passages being choaked with ruins and filth.

WHEN the Barbarians of the neighbourhood were risen, and perceived our bark, about an hundred of them threatened to burn her, and destroy us, if we did not immediately sheer off, which was done, to my great regret; what pity that such fine monuments should be in the possession of such savage brutes!

BUT now, to return to the first course upwards from the cataract.—When follow-

ing it, we had passed the isle of Ell-Heist, we continued sail all that day, and first passed, on our right hand, the village Ubschir. About a league higher up on our left, Schemt-Ell-Vah; and a little farther, on the same side, Sardsch Ell-Farras. The passage is very dangerous about a league above the first of these two islands, on account of the river's bed being crowded with stones.

OVER against Schemt-Ell-Vah is Deboude, another village, where I had a strong desire to land, to view some antique edifices that make a fine appearance; but the goodness of the wind barred any delay.

I OBSERVED a large and long building of hewn stone, enclosed on every side except its front, where is a great gate, and a resemblance of two large windows on each side, formed by four columns. On the top of the edifice is a plain cornice, under which, as well as in the four angles, is the cordon, common in Egyptian buildings.

THIS edifice is surrounded with a high

wall, much damaged, especially towards the portal.

ON the right side is a piece of a wall of large square stones; it joins to the building.

OPPOSITE to the front, three portals follow one another, and seem to form the avenue to a canal forty feet wide, and whose issue is the Nile. The canal is destroyed, and filled with sand. We could, however, observe, that its banks had been covered with a thick wall, made of large stones.

THERE is a vile mass of modern stonework, which dishonours those antient buildings, and gives them a confused aspect.

WE perceived columns within the principal edifice, which antiently had, perhaps, been a temple.

ABOUT a league and a half higher, we failed between two villages; that on the east side is named Demhiid; the other on the west side is called Dimmel. Higher up, on the same side, we came up with Hindau, a village, in which we perceived four or five columns, the remains of many antient edifices that had been there. For the space

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of a quarter of a league all around, we saw walls and foundations of many pompous buildings, entirely ruined, and almost covered with sand.

WE next reached the island Giesiret Mabues, six leagues above the first cataract, on the east side of the Nile. Over-against this island, on the same side of the river, is Sahdaeh, a village, remarkable only for one antient edifice. It has but a plain cordon in front; its square portal on a socle, six feet high, made of large stones artfully joined: the building is surrounded with a wall. Farther on is Huvaed; and a league and a half higher, Umbarakaeb. Both those villages are on the west side of the Nile.

A LITTLE above them are the confines of Egypt and Nubia. The latter begins at the villages Ell-Kalabafche and Testa, the former on the east, the latter on the west side of the Nile; they are of little note.

AT Testa are the remains of some antient buildings, not unlike the last mentioned. The columns within subsist, those without are ruined.

WE moored that night in the neigh-

bourhood of Berbetuud, a village on the west side of the Nile.

Saturday, December 28th.

IN the morning, the wind but weak, we sailed; were soon after becalmed, drew towards the east side of the Nile, and stopped before a village called Scheck Abohuer. Its district is two leagues in extent. Our pilot being a native of the place, vouched for the honesty of his countrymen, and assured us that we might go ashore there with safety, which we found to be true.

Sunday, December 29th.

DELAYED by the calm at Scheck Abohuer until mid-day, I walked about its environs, and observed an antient quay along the Nile, made of large stones, and cut prismatically: they were so well joined together, that the least interstice between them could not be described; the side to the Nile was quite smooth.

AT some distance from thence, I saw five or six cottages built of stones, entirely covered with hieroglyphics. I sought if I could discover in the neighbourhood, the remains of any large edifice, from whence they might have been taken: I saw no-

thing but a heap of stones, all being in ruin; the stones of the ruins were also covered with hieroglyphics, of good workmanship, but had never been painted. A Barbarian, perceiving my attention in observing these stones, made me a sign to follow him, and that he would shew me something curious; I followed him, and he brought me to a large flint-stone, which in its fall from the neighbouring rocks was split in two: it was of a brown colour, and the wonderful part of it in the Barbarian's eye, its middle, having the form of a nut, was red.

THE greatest breadth of the land, from the mountains to the Nile, in this district, does not exceed one hundred paces; if in some places it be more, in others it is much less.

WE purchased at Scheck Abohuer, a heifer for four sevillans; she appeared to us to be in good condition, but when butchered, we found she had more bones than flesh.

THE wind seeming to rise in the afternoon, we sailed, but not far; the calm returning, stopt us again, and compelled us

to put to shore at Garbe-Abohuer, a village on the west side of the Nile, and over-against Scheck Abohuer.

Monday, December 30th.

WE failed at eight in the morning, with a favourable wind, and in a few hours reached Scherck-Merruvau and Garbe-Merruvau, two villages opposite one to the other; the former on our left, the latter on our right hand, on which I saw the ruins of an antient edifice.

A LEAGUE farther on we came up with Scherck-Dendour and Garbe-Dendour; the former on the east side, the latter over-against it on the west.

AT Scherck-Dendour is the tomb of a Mahometan saint. This place is computed to be the midway from the first cataract to Derri. We passed on our left Barasbour.

I OBSERVED some ruins on the slope of a mountain, and almost in the form of an amphitheatre; on a closer examination, I discovered them to be the ruins of modern edifices.

SOUTHWARD we came up with an island, situate between Scherck-Girche and Garbe-

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Girche, two villages: there are some antiquities on the latter.

ON the neighbouring mountains are large modern ruins of houses, built perhaps for places of retreat.

BETWEEN Scherck-Girge and Garbe-Girche is the most perilous part of the Nile. The bed of the river, from side to side, abounds in rocks under the water, which is very deep beside them. In the intervening space are whirling gulphs: we omitted no precaution requisite to steer safely through; unluckily our bark did not obey her rudder; we struck upon a rock, and there stuck in a most terrifying situation: the bark was hitched by the middle, and the whirling of the water twisted her about on the rock, as on a pivot. There was too great a depth of water for our sailors to go into it; we could not reach the bottom with long poles. The reys wanted to persuade them to strip, and, swimming, to tow the bark after them: but they remonstrated that it would be impossible for them to swim, on account of the whirlpools: but happily the wind and current jointly shoved her off, and the wind

continuing strong enough, we soon got clear of apparent danger by water, to meet almost as certain from shore, on each side, where in two villages live profest assailants of all barks that pass.

THE one on the east side is named Gesch-Stobne. The other over-against it Sabagura. The wind still continuing favourable, we soon got clear of them, and came up with Hokuer, a village on the west side, some distance from the Nile.

THREE quarters of a league farther, we sailed between Kubbaen and Deckne; the former on our right, the latter on our left; near which are the remains of an ancient temple, called Ell-Guraen. It lies somewhat in land, has no hieroglyphics, yet appears to be in the taste of the ancient Egyptian edifices; it may even pass for magnificent.

WE after sailed between two villages, one on the east side, Algali, the other on west, Gurta.

WE passed by three districts, each having two villages of the same name, one on the east, the other on the west side of the Nile; to wit, Moharraka, Umhend, and

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and Schemede Reschied. We had our bark made fast to the last of them, on the west side.

THE river becomes larger here than in any part from the first cataract hither. Its situation is the same; since a little above the island of Ell-Heist, we have seen no more granite rocks.

Tuesday, December 31st.

WE remained all night near Schemede Reschied, and sailed about seven o'clock the next morning.

WE past by three other districts, having also a village with the same name, on each side of the Nile; to wit, Bubebaed, Naghallhadjemuse, and Gabt Ell-Abiid.

WE were soon after stopt by so dead a calm, that it obliged us to moor in another district of the same nature, near a village on the west side of the Nile, called Sabua.

IN its neighbourhood are some remarkable antiquities: they do not appear so magnificent as those of Dekke, nor are the stones so well joined together; many chasms, and pretty large ones, being observable among them. The stones are of a

gravelly and yellowish kind. The edifice is built in the antient Egyptian taste. Its portal has suffered; the rest is still standing.

THESE ruins are in a place covered with sand, where are four fragments of a wall, which indicate, that formerly there had been vast buildings there.

ALL around us here, mountains and rocks were the only objects to be seen. The feet of the mountains is an ascending slope, which is cultivated as high up as the overflowing of the Nile reaches.

Wednesday, January 1st, 1738.

As usual we had lain by all night. At seven in the morning, the wind being favourable, and enough of it, we sailed; nor did the Nile vary as to its ordinary breadth, or situation.

WE soon came up with another district, named Gaud Ell-Arrab, or Areb, on both sides of the river, having on each a village of the same name.

HIGHER up, and at some distance from the Nile, we saw the village Schiaturma.

AFTER, we sailed between two large villages, named Angora and Malcki; one on

the east, the other on the west side. And after them between two others, namely, Arega, on the right, and Singari, on the left.

IN the afternoon we reached a village on the east side of the river, called Koroskof.

HERE we were obliged to put to shore, in obedience to the filthy prince Schorbat Schie's mandate.

SAILING from thence a dispute arose between thereys and us, declaring he would stop at Derri, and not carry us up to the second cataract, unless we advanced him fifty sevillans more. Observing we paid little attention to his declaration, he insisted that he had bargained to go no higher. He laughed at our threats to force him, and said we should alter our tone when there.

THERE was no retreating nor seeming to be afraid, we told the reys, that if any stratagem should be contrived against us there, he should suffer for it, and that if our company were all to perish by vile schemes, he should certainly be the first victim.

THIS menace made him change his note. He swore he would have no hand in any disaster, that should befall us, and that if Baram Cachef, to whom the bark belonged, permitted, he would go with us as far as she could sail, but added at the same time his apprehensions that he would not consent. He told us to take great care not to offend the tyrant, of whom, though his master, he gave us a frightful picture, of which we deferred our belief till experience should give proofs for the truth of it.

BE CALMED we put to shore, and the current bearing strongly against us, we had the bark made fast near Amada, a village on the west side of the river almost opposite to Koroskoff. I landed there in order to see an antient Egyptian temple, which the Christians have since used as a church: As it proved by the testimony of the walls, whereon are painted representations of the trinity, of the apostles and of several other saints, and in places where the plaister is fallen, hieroglyphics peep from underneath. This temple is yet intire, but the monastery that has been built near it is quite destroyed.

WE saw that day a crocodile, the second since we had left the first cataract. Here the Nile was so shallow, that in many parts the barks could hardly make way.

Thursday, January 2d.

AT eight o'clock in the morning, the wind northerly, we unmoored to continue our course. But as the Nile there turns towards the north, we were obliged to have our bark haled along that day; we passed between two villages opposite one to the other, Abauhandel and Hassaia; the former, on our left, the latter on our right.

IN the evening we landed at a village on our right, called Kudjuhed. The situation of the Nile and its banks continues still the same; we here observed that the slope of the latter is for the most part covered with lupines and radishes, and likewise with some other plants, as succory, and pimpernel.

IT is as difficult to get canows hereabouts as at the first cataract. We observed that day a comical manner of the natives crossing the Nile. Two men sat on a pack of straw preceded by a cow that swam before them. One of them held the tail of the

cow with one hand, and with the other he managed a rope fastened to her horns. The man behind steered with a little oar, by means of which he preserved the equilibrium.

WE saw likewise that day laden camels cross the river in the following manner. A man swims before, having the bridle of the first camel in his mouth; to whose tail the second is tied, the third to his; a man seated on a pack of straw forms the rear guard, whose care is that the second and third camels follow in a line.

Friday, January 3d.

EARLY in the morning we towed; though the wind was northerly, there was not enough of it: therefore we got on but slowly.

WE advanced but three leagues that day, and saw but three villages, to wit, Abadu, on the east side of the Nile, and about two leagues higher, Keravafchie and Divan, between which we failed; the former was on our right; the latter on our left; we moored near Divan.

Saturday, January 4th.

BEFORE we unmoored in the morning

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we had a serious scene with the pilot. He came to and asked us for his coat. No body had promised him one, moreover it is not a present that falls to the share of pilots; when he found no attention paid to his demand he began to threaten.

WE menaced him in our turn, and shewed him a pistol cocked, which silenced him. But he took his things, and went out of the bark muttering an oath that we should be bound in that spot for fifteen days. He laughed at us when informed that he should not return to the bark without our pardon and leave, and went off. But finding no body dispatched after to pray him to come back, he returned of himself, in about an hour, and drawing near the bark asked if he might come on board. He was told he might, and that in case of a relapse he should not get off so easily.

MATTERS thus settled, we sailed, and having passed between two villages, called Tomas and Siu-Siuga, the former on our right, the latter on our left, at mid-day, we arrived at Deir or Derri, situate on the east side of the Nile, near the place where this river shapes its course westward. Here

our bark was made fast. The news of our coming thither having forerun us, there was a crowded concourse of people drawn together by the curiosity of seeing us.

WE found it impracticable to go up to the second cataract on account of the wickedness and tyranny of Baram Cachse, and the Schor-batschie, who had a design on our lives and property, so that Sunday, January 5th, and Monday, January 6th, were consumed in disagreeable altercations with them, to procure the bark for our return. For finding themselves disappointed in the schemes against our lives, by our refusing to go under the guidance of their army to the cataract, with which as they pretended they were to fight the inhabitants near it; they were resolved not to let us depart till they had squeezed out of us all they could. For the accomplishing of which they employed all the means that the most abandoned mind, and wicked heart could suggest.

WE thought ourselves happy to have escaped from those monsters at any rate, and fell down the stream with the help of oars.

CHAP. 25.

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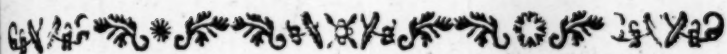
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*The Journal of the Author's Return from
DEIR or DERRI to CAIRO.*

Tuesday, January 7th.

WE had rowed all the preceding night, and continued so to do all this day. By eight o'clock in the evening we had already left behind us Gurta.

OUR reys in imitation of his owner wanted to play the tyrant, declaring if we did not pay fifty sevillans more than we had agreed for, he would carry us back to Derri, on which we replied we should throw him into the Nile, and undertake the conducting of the bark ourselves; this cured his insolence. He then submissively left the matter to our generosity.

Wednesday, January 8th.

WE had profited of the current all night, and until mid-day, when on account of a strong northerly wind we were obliged to put to shore, which we did on the east side of the Nile, near Dendour, which is more than half way from Derri back to the cataract; we found it very difficult to procure

any provision from the poverty and knavery of the people.

Thursday, January 9th.

THOUGH the northerly wind continued still pretty strong we pushed on as well as we could all day, aided by oars and the current; in the evening we reached Abohuer. We touched there, as we had done at several places that day without stopping at any. The question every where was how we were permitted to return from Derri. Some of them proposed courteously to the reys to land us, and they would share the plunder with him. At Abohuer, twenty men dared to swim to our bark, and ask an account of our travels upwards. They kept indeed at a certain distance, and let escape no symptom of mischievous intent. They seemed prodigiously surprised at our escape from Derri.

IN returning I observed another invention of the natives to cross the Nile. They get astride on a large piece of timber, having previously piled their cloaths on the head in form of a turbant, and made fast their zagale, or dart. They used their arms as oars, and cross the river with ease,

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and this custom for want of canows is practised below Essauen, and places where there are more crocodiles than here, and yet no accident happens; nay, those who swim every day in the Nile take no precaution against that animal.

Friday, January 10th.

WE began to row early in the morning, the northerly wind still continuing. In the afternoon we put to shore off Ubschir. The design of our reys was to moor there all night, but we prevailed on him by prayers and presents to go to Giesfret Ell-Heiff. I have already mentioned how I passed this night in viewing its magnificent antiquities.

Saturday, January 11th.

HAVING quitted Giesfret Ell-Heiff, we sailed down the Nile to Morrada; it was about nine in the morning when we arrived in this port.

THE son of our friend the Aga of Essuaen, informed of our return by the Jewish valet, came to us with the reys, and degenerate from his father's example, made a compulsory bargain for carriages to bring us and our things to Essuaen.

I AMUSED myself in viewing the catara^ct a second time; when I returned to the bark, our people brought us in a quantity of turtle doves, and of fish which abound in those parts.

Sunday, January 12th.

ABOUT mid-day the Aga's son came to us with a number of conveniences to carry us to Effuaen. We immediately changed our baggage and departed. As we drew towards the city of Effuaen the Aga's son who took the lead turned from it, which to us so often well treated seemed a little surprising. We were conducted at length to what is called the Aga's country-house. The commandant of the port of the catara^ct was there before us, he had directed that on our arrival, all our luggage should be brought in there, then ordered the door to be shut.

THIS mysterious proceeding did not very much alarm us, because we were sufficiently armed to oppose any attempt of his.

WHEN he had paid the camel drivers he saluted us, declaring at the same time that his motive for bringing us thither was to

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give the populace the double, who were all gathered at Effuaen to see us arrive; and having heard the treatment we had met with at Derri, might be tempted to repeat it; that they were destitute of sufficient force to quell their populace, whenever they pleased to mutiny.

FROM the plausibility of his reasons, we began to think better of him, and barring his never omitting an opportunity of extorting some little present, he did us all the service in his power.

OUR dwelling place, as the reader may readily guess, was very contemptible: a slave appointed to wait on and obey us in every thing, delivered up the keys to us at night.

THE only good article about this country-seat, was a large yard, full of sheep and poultry, all at our service, in paying for them; that is, dearer than at the public market. We longed to leave our disagreeable tenement.

Monday, January 13.

WE were told in the morning, that a small bark then at Effuaen, offered to carry us down to Cairo. I went to see it; it was

too small, and the master asked forty-five scvillans for our passage. I did not strike a bargain; and the son of the aga who came up to us, opposed it. Said the journey was fatiguing enough, without the farther anxiety of being cooped up, and that shortly there would be a large bark to carry us. I bargained, however, with the master of the small one, to ferry us over next day to the other side of the Nile. The aga's son promised me two janissaries, with the valet for guide, who had told me of the antiquities there.

Tuesday, January 14.

EARLY in the morning I crossed the Nile, accompanied by the fathers, janissaries, and valets. We were obliged to fall down the Nile about a league, because between the island Elephantine and the continent, on the west side of the river, there was not water enough for our bark to come in with the land.

WHEN landed, we had as long a way to walk along the shore, as we had fallen down in the bark. Then our guide led us over mountains of sand, which hereabout skirt the river: besides the fatigue of ascending

on these sands, they, to our farther plague, covered briars and thorns, that lacerated our naked legs, according to the custom of the country. The heat was excessive. After three hours labour, we came to the place we were in quest of, quite tired.

WE saw nothing worthy of the trouble we had undergone, nor the mortifying walk we were to have back. I gave three sevillans for the bark, and two to be shared among the janissaries and the aga's valet. The last had more reason to be pleased than I had.

Wednesday, January 15.

THE aga's son brought a reys to me, whose bark then lay at the port of the cataract, and was to be at Effuaen in three days. We bargained with him for sixty sevillans. He bound himself to carry us to Cairo, and put us ashore wherever we pleased. We gave him ten sevillans earnest.

THE aga's brother, who had accompanied us to Derri, paid us a visit, and gave us a long detail of the black scene designed against us by Baram Cachef, and of the circumstances that he believed contributed

to our safety. We, in return, made him some presents, with which he was not displeased.

Thursday, January 16.

ABOUT mid-day Ibrahim Aga expired: the son sent to inform us of the father's death, and of his succeeding to the government. We returned our compliments of condolence to him, accompanied with some presents he had seemed to desire. In acknowledgment, he ordered us at night a guard of three janissaries, to be our safeguard, in case of any tumult occasioned by the death of his father. We should rather have dispensed with the honour of a guard, as we were become suspicious of every act; therefore while the janissaries remained with us, two of our people successively watched every night, but no disaster happened.

I HAD been out in the morning on an eminence, from whence I saw the bark we had bargained for, coming down the cataract. In some parts she was hauled down with a rope by camels, in others by men: the work advancing but slowly, I appre-

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Friday 17. Saturday 18. Sunday 19.

NOTHING interesting happened in those three days; and inasmuch as the new aga, for the same reason he had given us a guard, advised that we should not go much out, we kept our dwelling-place. Our people amused themselves in quest of game, and we prepared provisions for our journey.

Monday, January 20.

OUR reys came to inform us in the evening, that his bark was arrived; that she was moored under the citadel; that he hoped in a day or two at the farthest to bring her to the place of embarkation.

Tuesday, January 21.

THE roughness of the wind hindered the bark's being brought to the place of embarkation; moreover it was the paschal day of the Turks.

Wednesday, January 22.

THE same reasons hindered the bark from falling down.

THE aga sent us a sheep, and some white bread, made on account of the feast. They

were presented to us in the name of his sultaneſs, which intimated that we had forgot to make her any preſent, and that we ought to think of making amends for our omiſſion.

Thursday, January 23.

AT length the bark was brought to the place of embarkation. I went to ſee, and found her roomy enough: empty ſhe drew but a foot and ſome inches water; was flat-bottomed: all theſe kind of barks are made of ſicamore wood, of which alſo the mummy caſes are made; it being very hard, the barks are conſequently very ſtrong; notwithſtanding, many of them periſh, partly on account of their being badly put together, and partly from their ignorant pilots not knowing how to ſteer them. I ſettled with the reys how every thing was to be diſpoſed in the bark for our greater conveniency.

TOWARDS evening we ſent a few preſents to madam ſultaneſs, who, as ſhe ordered us to be informed, was highly pleaſed with them; but her unſatisfied huſband complained, he had not as yet got enough; making no allowance for all we had been

drained of, or considering whether we had a sufficiency left to defray our travelling expences to Cairo. He sent us word, nevertheless, that next day he would order us conveniencies to carry us to the bark.

Not knowing the consequence, we not only gave leave to bring on board, but advanced twelve parats to the Jew valet, to buy dates, by the sale of which he might get some profit at Cairo.

Friday, January 24.

THE camels and asses that were to carry our baggage came in the morning; we went on board in the afternoon. A scuffle arose among the fellows that drove the camels and asses; one boy being severely wounded with a knife, his mother and a crowd of women increased the tumult, which after some time was suppressed by janissaries, sent at our request from the aga; one of them he had ordered to stay with us as a safe-guard.

SINCE the death of the old aga, we had not as yet seen the new: he was obliged by the law to remain at home a certain time; nevertheless, in regard to us, or rather his own interest, he broke through it,

and came to us at midnight, accompanied by one man carrying a long pike, the mark of his master's dignity. I went to receive him, brought him on board, and presented him with coffee; after which he gave some hints of still farther expectations; but being assured, that to act agreeable thereto had been our previous intention, he sweetened all on a sudden, and prayed us to deliver letters for him to the powers of Cairo, whom he intreated to continue him in his place, without being obliged to go thither, and solicit in person for it. After some hours conversation he withdrew, wishing us a good journey, and promised to fix every thing for our departure the next Sunday.

Saturday, January 25.

OUR bark lay a quarter of a league from the citadel of Effuaen. The reys prayed us to advance him fifteen sevillans; for the ten advanced for him to the aga, he had not a penny of, nor ever should; so these unhappy wretches, fleeced by their unworthy superiors, prey upon others as much as they can. On his saying he wanted the money to buy necessaries for himself and

his men, we granted his request; but, as we found after, he was secretly leagued with the Jew valet to buy dates for the market of Cairo, which proved of great disservice to us.

IN the evening the reys, who had brought us up from Cairo to Effuaen, visited, and presented us with a sheep in fine order, with a hamper full of their paschal bread: we acquitted ourselves to him for his generosity. He was a janissary, and lived at his ease. Let it here once for all be observed, that although the militia of this canton usurp the name of janissaries, they are but affefs.

Sunday, January 26.

THE reys, who had carried us to, and brought us back from Derri, came on board with a pretended demand on us, nothing less than a coat, and ten piasters. We referred him to the cadis, who decided, he was not entitled to any thing from us. This decision, with the draft of the new reys's compact, who was to carry us to Cairo, amounted to one piafter.

IN the evening we sent to the aga some conclusive trifling presents, and four sevil-

lans for the use we had made of the country-house. He accepted the former articles, but objected to the littleness of the sum; which on due consideration, and lest we might neglect his letters, or prejudice him at Cairo, he accepted of, gave orders for our departure, and sent the letters we were to deliver for him.

WE had every thing made ready to go off in the night, as the aga had advised, for the avoiding any insult.

Monday, January 27.

AT one in the morning, our men began to ply their oars; a strong northerly wind impeded us; towards mid-day it died away. We did not stop till seven in the evening at Giesret Ell Mansoria.

THE cacheff of Efnay was encamped there: he ordered us ashore; we waited on him with some presents, and found him also an insatiable rascal, like all the rest.

Tuesday, January 28.

HE sent us early in the morning two fat sheep, by way of a civil dun for a great deal more than they were worth; in consequence of which, he gave orders to the reys to depart at two in the afternoon;

but in the intermediate time was continually sending for one thing or other, which being trifles, we refused not.

JUST as we were sheering off, his last message was to send something that would make him vigorous in his seraglio. We could not help laughing at the demand, and to satisfy the confidence he had in us, sent two bottles of Hungary water, of which we advised him to take a good dose, night and morning.

WE set off, and in a little time were right against the antient temple of Konombu.

I LANDED, in order to view it: walking thither I observed a great quantity of Pharaoh's fowl following the cacheff's little camp: some of them white bodied, with black wings; others entirely black: they fed on what was thrown to them, and went among the tents like tame birds.

THERE being a profound calm, our rowers, helped by the current, got down the Nile very fast.

A LITTLE after twelve, we were already at Tschibal Effelsele, the mountain of the chain.

OUR reys, contrary to his bargain to put us ashore wherever we pleased, objected against stopping here, to no purpose. I went ashore, and had scarce begun my drawing and measuring what I thought remarkable, when the Jew came to advise my immediate return to the bark, for that they had perceived a crowd of Arabians approaching. I heeded him not: another was sent to tell me the bark was off; I kept him with me, saying we should overtake it in the evening, which with some trouble I did, after having satisfied my curiosity as long as day-light permitted.

WE continued rowing until midnight, at which hour we had reached Buebbe.

Wednesday, January 29.

THE calm lasted all night, and all the next day, which greatly contributed to our getting forward. From time to time we saw several crocodiles, fired at, but killed none of them.

ABOUT midnight we came to Turraeg.

WE met there seven or eight barks put to shore, and mutually calling each other, as is the custom of the country.

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sign here the letters the aga had written to the powers of Cairo. We sent them ashore by the reys. Immediately after signature we sheered off.

Thursday, January 30.

BEFRIENDED by a calm, we continued at a smart rate all night, and in the morning too; but about mid-day a strong northerly wind springing up, our rudder was broke. We were stopt in the middle of the Nile by the conflict of the wind and current, which caused such a rolling, that many on board fell sick; but our fellows plied their oars so well, that after some time we got near to the land of Dureg.

WHILST we were there, a bark passed by us, with three Franks on board; our fellows plied their oars anew, so that about mid-day we were a-breast of Esnay.

OUR first care was to get the rudder mended.

THE wind being northerly and strong, we were obliged to stop there that night.

Friday, January 31.

I WENT early in the morning to survey a-new the antient temple.

OUR rudder repaired we left Esnay, tho'

the wind was yet northerly and strong, about eight o' clock in the evening: we did not get above half a league from it by midnight, and there anchored in the middle of the river.

Saturday, February 1.

AT the break of day we unmoored, and strove hard to get forward on our way; but the north-wind strengthening, soon forced us to make to shore; we anchored at Ell-Ardie, situate on the west-side of the Nile, between Efnay and Asfuun. We remained there all day, some of our people went in quest of game, and killed a dozen geese of the Nile. In the evening we made new efforts to advance, but the wind proving too strong, our bark was made fast near a little island, formed by the fall of the waters of the Nile.

Sunday, February 2.

THE north-wind still continued, and very strong; every attempt to row was defeated; all they could procure us was to cross the Nile, and reach the shore opposite to Asfuun.

WE saw an uncultivated plain, about a quarter of a league in breadth, over which

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the mountains shewed themselves anew. About evening the wind being entirely spent, we unmoored the bark, and pursued our journey as far as Schagab.

WE might have continued our course down the Nile all night, but we chose to stay there in order to take in a provision of wood the next day, being a scarce article on board of us. The village Schagab lies about a musquet shot from the west side of the river; and equi-distant from it and the mountains, in the environs, are date trees, and a little wood consisting of several sorts of trees: the ground belonging to it is not extensive, but very well cultivated.

Monday, February 3.

OUR oars had not been long at work before we saw several crocodiles. In the afternoon we passed the antiquities of Arment, and pursued our course uninterruptedly, not being far from Magaheradone; a difficult and impracticable passage when the least wind blows. The reason of it is the Nile has no current there.

THE Nile embraces a large island here; which passed, another succeeded.

AT last we got as far as Luxxor.

THERE is no landing at it in this season of the year, on account of the shallowness of the water. We therefore landed a quarter of a league lower down than the village, without-side of which the principal antiquities stand. I proposed to the reys to go thither with me in the night. He approved my plan, and offered to attend me; some of our company were willing to be of the party.

WE set off at midnight, and reached the antiquities without meeting any body. The Arabians live in such mutual distrust of each other, that they retire with the setting sun, and come not forth till after his uprising.

Tuesday, February 4.

I HAD sufficient time to measure those beautiful monuments of antiquity, and finished before day. I was desirous also to measure those within the village; but I had scarce got near it, when the barking of dogs advised a retreat to the bark.

IN the morning I returned to Luxxor: our folks amused the Arabians in selling them provisions they wanted; this procu-

red me time enough to execute all the measurements I wanted: at eleven o'clock we went on board, and bore away for Carnac.

THE Nile being very shallow on that side, we were obliged to land two leagues lower, in order to view the antiquities. By riding an unruly horse the reys procured me, knowing how fatigued I had been by the labour of the last night, I lost some of my papers, which were found by one of the wretched Arabians, who gave them to a rascally Schech; from whom, after a deal of affected indifference, I got them for a piafter, to my great satisfaction: his first demand was twenty sevillans. Having taken the Jew on board who went for them; our people rowed till nine in the evening, when we were obliged to put to shore between Gamola and Joes; a furious wind having sprung up, the bark could make no head against.

Wednesday, February 5.

AT sun rise our oars were plied, and by eleven we reached Ell-Hella.

THIS village is over-against Negadi. We stopt there, the wind became too strong for us to advance.

WE were but half a league from Giera Joes: it contains some antiquities.

IN the afternoon, the wind considerably fallen, we travelled on, and in the evening we put to shore a little northward of Schechie.

WITH the break of day the reys roused up all his fellows, saying it was time to set off; which the pilot opposing, a dispute broke out between them. We interfered; the bark was rowed on in the mean time. At mid-day a strong wind compelled us to stop at Ebbenuud.

HERE the reys asked our permission to turn off his pilot, which he had no difficulty to obtain, as the fellow was of little use. They went before a cadis; the pilot lost his cause, and was mulcted half his wages; defeated he returned on board, then took his things and himself away.

WE remained there all day, the north wind being too strong for us to tug against.

Friday, February 7.

THE wind was still in the same point, and equally vehement. Moreover our bark being open in her prow, took in water very fast. Motives sufficient for us to

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stop there. The reys sent for a carpenter, who before night set things to right. The wind abating a little, we made way till about nine o'clock; we then put to shore, on the west side of the Nile in the territory of Dandera.

I HAD a mind to stop and see an antiquity there; but no body seconded me.

Saturday, February 8.

A LITTLE after mid-night the oars went to work. About twelve o'clock in the day it blew hard; but the current being strong we did not put to shore till towards night, near Reiesie.

Sunday, February 9.

As soon as day began to appear, we were off; though the wind freshened apace, we did not stop till mid-day, in the neighbourhood of Hau.

NEAR this city is a heap of stones, the ruins of an antique edifice entirely destroyed. In viewing the city, I observed that its houses were built of fragments of columns, and other stones taken from antient buildings.

THE evening being calm, our oars came in play; and although the night was very

dark, we advanced so briskly, that by eleven at night we passed Bagjura.

A LITTLE below we struck on a sand bank, where we stuck till morning.

Monday, February 10.

OUR crew having undergone great fatigue in getting her off, we put to shore in order to give them resting time. After which they betook themselves to their oars, and brought us to Savacgel.

HERE the reys took in materials for fuel; the tilled land about this village is not above fifty paces wide; beyond it the mountains rise, in which are many grots and quarries.

WE steered along the eastern course of the river, and with great difficulty could make any way; the bed of the river having changed that year, several sand banks obstructed the navigation. By dint of labour we got over three, and met many more. The reys was obliged to land from time to time, to learn the different depths of the river. Being informed that when he should have made a little more way, he would find water deep enough. This news so animated our hands, that by alternately

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rowing, and hawling the bark, we got clear of the sand banks, and advanced so vigorously, that night falling, we were at Samhuud. We anchored in the middle of the Nile, till morning.

Tuesday, February 11.

AT six o' clock the bark was rowed off, and went with great speed, there being scarce any wind to impede her; for so early as nine o'clock we were at Belliene.

HERE we were obliged to put into and steer close by the eastern-shore of the Nile, because of the shallows on the opposite side that year. When we had got a little farther, a strong wind obliged us to put to shore. We saw a bark unloading, because she could not get over the sand-banks, that reached from one side of the river to the other.

IN the afternoon the wind ceasing, we followed our course briskly, and shot beyond Bardis.

BUT here we found ourselves so embarrassed by surrounding sand-banks, that we did not know which way to get from among them. We apprehended that like other barks, ours must also be unloaded. We

promised a man, sailing in a little canoe, a handsome reward, if he would shew us any escape to extricate us from this labyrinth. He effected it; disentangled, we continued our way, and towards nine o'clock in the evening reached Girge or Tschirh.

Wednesday, February 12.

IN the morning we went ashore to take in provisions. One of the fathers of the hospitality solicited us for his passage to Grand Cairo, which we cheerfully granted. The bey of Tschirh was not yet returned; but the prince of Achmiin was in the city, in his way to Bardis, to hold a general assembly of all the Arabian Schechs.

WE were ready to depart, not dreaming of any obstacles; when behold, thro' the knavery of our reys and the Jew valet, an embargo was laid on us. For these two worthy compeers, instead of declaring to the custom-house a weight of thirty ardebs of their private traffic, only declared four, which fraud being detected by the searching officer, the bark was consequently stopt, nor could be released until the customs for the entire cargo were paid off. We had our reys called, but he had given us the

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flip, and gone on before us over land; for his knavery was too well known here to dare shew himself. However, he took care to send a pilot on board.

THE whole afternoon was lost in curing the mischief caused by our date-merchants. The director of the custom-house came on board, and after some compliments, declared a concern for his being obliged to require the opening of some of our coffers. And added, that a report was spread thro' the city of our having many chests full of arms; therefore I believe, both for your safety and mine, said he, the most prudent way will be to open a few of them. His demand being reasonable, we did not hesitate a moment to satisfy it. We desired him to make choice of those he would have opened. He fixed on two, which were opened in presence of the custom-house officers, and others who had followed him.

FINDING nothing therein but necessary utensils for our journey, he took his leave of us very politely.

As soon as the director had left the bark, we sheered off; but did not make much way, when we were hard a-ground.

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As soon as the bark was got afloat, we put to shore on the east-side of the Nile, at the feet of those high mountains that are so near to the river.

Thursday, February 13.

As soon as the moon was up, we used our sail, and by seven in the morning, were a-breast of Meschie.

HERE a Greek merchant came to us, and asked his passage, which, having little room to spare, and not to make our favours cheap, we refused. Notwithstanding our refusal, he had his merchandize put on board, there being a private understanding between him and our honest reys, who had now joined us. This cavalier manner of proceeding so justly irritated us, that we ordered the Greek's baggage to be instantly thrown ashore. Not satisfied with that, the fellow addressed himself to the caimakan, who came on board, and entreated in behalf of the Greek. We remained firm in our resolution, and refused him in the politest manner. Finding he could not obtain any thing by entreaty, he had recourse to menaces, at which we laughed. We were not at Derri, and knew the map

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of the country we were in, and of what little consequence an officer of so low a rank as he was.

AT eight o'clock in the evening, the prince of Achmiin arrived in a bark, attended by six more. He made no stay here; went off as he came, with drums beating: we followed him close, and a little before midnight, we arrived at Achmiin.

THERE our bark was made fast, in order to take on board the reverend fathers, who had gone thither over land in the morning.

I OBSERVED an island that the Nile had made this year, over-against Meschie, situate on the other side of the river. The prince of Achmiin had taken possession of it; but the right thereto was disputed by his neighbours, the inhabitants of Uladjecheche, who pretended it was their property, which caused a litigation between them.

Friday, February 14.

THE fathers came to us early in the morning, attended to the bark by an officer of the prince, and several Romanist Christians, who made us many little pre-

sents of bread, of dates, of a spirit distilled from that fruit, &c. We, in return, gave them images, beads of Jerufalem, and other articles, with which they seemed highly pleased.

WE took leave of them, and set off with very favourable weather, which lasted till five in the evening, when a violent wind arose, and obliged us to put to land at Moraga.

HALF of this village had been borne away by the Nile; which accident having happened within the year, our reys knew not that its ruins had caused several banks in the Nile; so that after we had rowed a few hours, we struck on one of them. Our crew strove to get the bark off, but finding their efforts vain, went to bed.

OVER-against Moraga the mountains are very close to the river, and many grottoes, or caverns, are seen in them.

Saturday, February 15.

AT the peep of day our fellows swam to land, in order to hale the bark off, which they did; we continued our way, and soon passed Rejeyna.

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should stop at Gauscherkie, in order to see an ancient temple there; but the imprudence of our sailors debarred me that pleasure.

THE inhabitants of the different villages along the Nile, have each a nick-name, by which they are railed at. As we came up with Gauscherkie, our sailors let off a volley of such abuse against the inhabitants they saw on the shore, who, irritated at the insult, hallooed to others: in a short time there were about fifty Arabians gathered, with large sticks, who invited us to come ashore that they might have an opportunity of returning their thanks for so polite an accosting. Our sailors begged to be excused for the present, and continued their way; so by their low humour I was baulked.

WE got in the night as far as Nechcheele.

WE intended to continue our route, but not knowing the bottom of the Nile, it having changed its course this year, we first struck upon some stones, and after upon others. We got clear of them; but to avoid the repetition of such inconveniences, or perhaps some greater disaster, we cast

anchor a quarter of a league below Nechecheele, and resolved to wait the return of day.

Sunday, February 16.

WE weighed anchor with the dawn, pursued our course, and passed by Catea.

WE observed that almost half the village had been carried away by the Nile this year. We observed in some places the tops of palm-trees, and the roofs of houses peeping above water. By this, and many other instances, it appears that the Arabians are not much concerned for the loss of their houses; but they are very sanguine in pursuit of their land, carried off by the river, and placed elsewhere; which is a cause not only of litigation, but often of war among their princes.

AT ten in the morning we reached Siouth.

WE went thither, but were too early for their bazar; and the weather being too favourable to lose it, we returned to the bark, and put off.

THE sun setting, we were between two islands, where the passage is very dangerous, on account of the current's being ve-

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ry strong there, and of several sand-banks. We saw the wrecks of a bark that lately had perished there.

AT ten in the night we were not far from Monfaluth.

As soon as the custom-house bark perceived ours, she fired a musquet, the signal for us to bring to. If we had had no merchandize on board, we should have been expedited immediately; but those unlucky dates were the occasion of our being delayed till the next day.

Monday, February 17.

THE custom rights paid, we put off in the morning, and soon reached Umel Gu-fuer.

THE inhabitants of this place are not celebrated for their honesty; therefore it is not safe to go amongst them.

THE reys wanted to stop at Galanich.

HIS view was to wait for some barks, in order to pass in company with them before Stableantor.

HE dreaded the inhabitants of this place, infamous for their piracies.

WE left above twenty barks at Galanische, who there waited for day-light to

pass by the place in question, which we did without a word being spoken to us, and at eleven in the night we put to shore on the west side of the Nile, near Neslet Ell Paramu, where we saw thirty barks, collected for the same motive as those at Galanisch, to pass by Stableanter with daylight.

Tuesday, February 18.

AT the break of day we put off, and continuing our course, we passed at ten o'clock Schech Abade.

IN this place formerly stood the city of Antinopolis; some of its edifices still remain; we had a partial view of them from the bark; there was no possibility of going ashore. We passed on our left Ell Motta Ghara, opposite to a territory of the same name, that has a fine wood along the Nile, whose waters had carried off a great part of it this year. We saw several grottoes that had been made in the mountains, particularly near Sauvada. There are large gates to some of them.

AT eight in the evening we stopt before the village Sauvada, situate on the east-side of the river. Near it is a sugar-mill.

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Wednesday, February 19.

As soon as it was day, we crossed the Nile, in order to go to Menie.

Our reys paid there the duty for his dates, which is very moderate, being solely appropriated to support an aga, fixed by the bashaw in this place, to collect the corn necessary for the subsistence of the soldiers at Cairo. He sends likewise a tribute to Constantinople.

When we got to Menie, the fog was so thick, that we could not see thirty paces from us. We went ashore to view the city, which is now protected by a strong stone-dyke against the overflowing of the Nile. It has not been long finished.

Continuing our course down the Nile, we passed the convent of St. Martha, situate on a mountain. We saw there thousands of Cormorants, and a great quantity of Pharaoh's fowl.

Northward, and not far from it, appears somewhat like the ruins of an antient city, contrived in the rock.

At night we put to shore at Colossano.

Thursday, February 20.

At the dawn of day we quitted this

place, and made great way, there being a very favourable calm. We stopt a while at Benemhammed, to take in provisions; and we were lucky enough to get there every thing we wanted.

AT four in the afternoon we passed Scherona.

Friday, February 21.

WE put off from our mooring early in the morning, and got briskly on till near Benesoef, where we were entangled amongst a little fleet of barks, laden with corn for Cairo. Some of them were a-ground. We should have been in the same disagreeable situation, but that we had luckily got into the stream, which in a short time carried us down to Benesoef.

WE were obliged to put to shore there, to pay twenty-five parats, a duty exacted from every bark. We stopt an hour, and then put off. Very near Benesoef we saw another bark a-ground. She had been attacked the preceding night by robbers, and not being in a condition of defence, her crew cut the rope she was fast to, and let her run adrift down the current, that threw her on the sand.

WE next came up with Eschmend EN Arab.

WE cast anchor to the south of this place, and passed the night there.

Saturday, February 22.

As day rose we put off, and by twelve o'clock reached Sauvied Ell Mafluub.

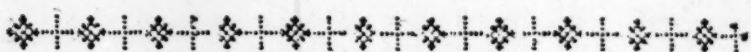
THE caimakan was our acquaintance; we sent a salutation to him in our behalf; but through our emissaries we were informed, that he, with his family, had for some time quitted this place; that he was gone to Cairo to enter into the service of Osman Bey, who was to conduct the caravan to Mecca. On this information we sailed without loss of time, and passed the seven islands: we drew near to land in a place from whence there is a near view of the pyramids of Sakarra. We continued our way till nine at night, when the bark struck violently on some stones, where she stuck: all immediate efforts to disengage her proved in vain. About midnight she worked herself off. We anchored not far from the place this accident had happened to us, and over-against Cofferlogad.

THE men plied their oars early in the

morning, and made great way till twelve o'clock; then a strong wind arose; we were a-ground near Cairo, and in spite of all our varied endeavours, could not get the bark afloat till towards night; then we soon got down to Old Cairo, and there anchored precisely at the same place from whence we had departed the 18th of November of the preceding year. We sent immediate advice of our arrival to Cairo, that next day convenient vehicles might be sent to us.

Monday, February 24.

A SUFFICIENT number of camels was brought, to carry us and our baggage to the city. We arrived there at mid-day, and so ends the journal of my travels up and down the Nile.



*A view of the present government of EGYPT:
and of its origin.*

SELIM the first, emperor of the Turks, completed the conquest of Egypt in one campaign, which made him master

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of the kingdom, without reducing its inhabitants to an entire obedience; for Upper-Egypt had not been invaded by the conqueror, and was governed by Arabian shechs, who acknowledged him for their master, in order to prevent their country's being ransacked.

THIS the conqueror knew very well, and that those submissive to the yoke in his presence, would shake it off in his absence, unless some methods were instituted to prevent it. He consequently established a form of government, capable of insuring him the possession of the country, and of defending it in any case of emergency.

SINCE the foundation of the Ottoman monarchy, it has been an established maxim at the port, that when government was concerned, the rules of equity were to be suspended; and that it was preferable to perpetrate the greatest cruelties, rather than let the least offence against the sovereign's power escape unpunished.

SELIM was of a character to follow literally this barbarous maxim of his ancestors. Being obliged to march elsewhere with his troops, and observing Egypt not to be suf-

ficiently subdued; to free himself from all apprehensions on that head, by preventing revolutions, he established a form of government, which by the very nature of it, and with time, must reduce Egypt to the point he wished, and through the agency of a few Turks, left there for the execution of it.

AGREEABLE to his plan, he created a Bashaw, on whom he conferred the entire government of Egypt. The power of this officer was despotic; he was accountable to the emperor only for his conduct, according to whose will and pleasure he was to be changed annually, or every two years.

TWENTY-FOUR beys were instituted at the same time. Their commission was to govern provinces, wherein they act as despotically as the Bashaw does over the whole kingdom. They are nominated by the Bashaw, and are answerable before him, as he is before the Porte. One of them attends the carats, or tribute, which are carried every year from Egypt to Constantinople; another accompanies the caravan to Mecca: those unemployed assist once a

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week at the Divan, or council of the Bashaw, to learn the orders of the Grand Signior, and to consult with the Bashaw on the easiest and properest means of executing them.

WHEN Egypt sends her contingent, or any troops to the emperors, they are commanded by a bey. The place of high chancellor is always filled by one of that corps. Once a bey, or beg, the title remains during life: the different commissions they are entrusted with are but of precarious duration, and that is according to the Bashaw's pleasure.

FROM what has been said, one might incline to think, that the supreme power in Egypt is in the hands of the Bashaw, and that all other authority is divided among the different beys; but this magnificent image will lose greatly of its first appearance, on reflection of their power's being but biennial, and that they have no troops at their disposal.

SELIM, after the total defeat of the Mameluks, having thus disposed the first places of the government, introduced a militia on the same footing of that among

the Turks, confined it to a certain number of men, for the most part raised in Egypt, intermixed with a few others, drafted from the provinces of the empire, and some Turks, who remained in the country.

THIS militia was divided into several military classes, according to the practice of the Ottoman empire; and those divisions are known by the name of *Portes*.

BUT as the only distinguished among them are the *janissaries* and *assafs*, and that the particulars of all the others would pass for one of those two corps, I shall give an ample account of them, omitting the rest.

THEY differ but in number, which is sometimes greater in one than the other. In every thing else their government and discipline are exactly alike, which does not prevent their living in perpetual jealousy with each other; for which in all appearances the *Janissaries* are most in fault, because looking on themselves as the more formidable, they affect a haughtiness to the others; and though in valour they be far inferior to those of Constantinople, yet

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they glory in the title, and despise even other corps.

EVERY Porte is commanded by an Aga, which officer is not nominated by the Bashaw. He must be elected by the corps, and be vested with the caffetan, or brevet, of the Grand Signior. He concerns himself only about the interest of his Porte. He assists at the grand Divan; presides over the council of his own corps, has under him subaltern officers, called Kiaja, or Kieche, and Sious.

By Kiaja, or Kieche, is understood a species of colonels, who also attend the Bashaw's Divan, being sometimes persons of great importance. They form a company together; and two of them are chosen every year to superintend the affairs of the Porte.

THE Sious, or black heads, are officers of a lower rank, who notwithstanding have their share in the government, according as they interest themselves therein. There are some hundreds of them in every Porte.

SELIM not thinking it expedient to have a naval army in Egypt, consequent-

ly no marines, or ships of war, are to be seen there.

He thought pretty much in the same manner relative to fortresses: but as in all Egypt there may be yet subsisting half a dozen fortified castles, I shall honour them with some little notice. Selim destroyed all strong places, he judged capable of a vigorous defence.

THOSE castles are garrisoned by Janissaries and Affafs. The commanders of those places take the title of Aga. They have subalterns called Schorbatschies, who jointly with them form a Divan. Their power by right extends no farther than the fortresses they command. But when they are of an interested cast, they find pretexts to pass the limits, that they may interfere in all the transactions of their neighbourhood.

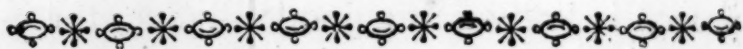
IN every place there is a cadiz, or judge, who decides law-suits; his sentence is generally without appeal. He commonly acts with great circumspection, lest any party aggrieved should have friends powerful enough to have him cited before a superior tribunal.

BESIDES the cadiz, there is at Cairo a grand master of the police, called Huali. The public markets, weights, and measures, are under his inspection. His satelites execute immediate justice on all trespassers. He walks often through the city by night, as well as by day, and is attended by fifty executioners. Having power of life and death, his presence creates an awe wherever he goes. Luckily his approach is known at a good distance, for every one takes care to hide themselves in their houses, or escape into the next streets.

ALTHOUGH I have already said, that the beys are generally the governors of the provinces, there are some exceptions; for in several places the government is in the hands of caches, or caimakans: the former govern three or four villages at a time, the latter but one. They both enjoy the same privileges that a bey does in his province. The only difference between the cache and the caimakan, consists in the former's district being larger than that of the latter.

IN religious matters, Egypt is governed

by a mufti, and the doctors of the law. They judge in all fpiritual caufes, and have alfo fome fhare in the fecular government; but their politic conduct is to trim between contending factions, fometimes leaning to the one, fometimes to the other; but to always attach themfelves to that which prevails, and but during the time it can maintain its fuperiority.



A view of the ARABIAN STATES.

I Shall endeavour according to the beft information I could get, to give fome account of the Arabian princes, how they conduct themfelves, and what were the means employed to reduce them to obedience.

THE Arabians in the Delta, and above Cairo, as far as Benefoef, are divided into Felaques and Bedouins. The former are peafants that dwell in villages, and entirely fubject to the government. The latter are diftributed in clans, each having a chief, whom they call Schech. They live

always in tents, and each band of them forms a little camp. Having no property in land, they shift their dwelling places whenever they please so to do.

WHEN they intend to abide in any district for a certain time, they make a previous agreement with the Bey, the Cacheff, or the Caimakan for a grant of tilling a stipulated portion of land during one year; or of feeding their flock the time they shall have agreed for.

THE contract made, they live quietly, go to, and return from the neighbouring villages or towns, where they sell or purchase according to their exigence, and enjoy all the liberty they could desire.

THEY are treated with more mildness than any of the Grand Signior's other subjects. Having nothing, nothing can be extorted from them, and if they were to be otherwise harrassed, the consequence would no doubt be dangerous.

IT would be advantageous for Egypt if all the Arabians acted in the regular manner laid down. The country would not want hands to cultivate it. The officers of the government would receive the tri-

butes more exactly, by which means those payable to the Grand Signior, would be the sooner supplied.

BUT unhappily those Bedouins are of too inconstant a temper, and sometimes too knavish to lead so quiet and uniform a life. When they have any way emancipated themselves, and that in consequence they are afraid of the pursuits of justice, or if they have been injured, they immediately pack up their baggage, quit the territory, and form plots with other camps, by which means they encrease in number, chuse a proper leader, then make good their quarter in what country they please. They no longer trouble themselves about tilling land, but reap whatever corn they find. The governors in the beginning of such invasions strive to oppose, and sometimes defeat them. But in general the Bedouins make a vigorous resistance, nor retire till they have destroyed every thing.

SUCH plundering ruins the Felaques, who are thereby rendered insolvent of their tribute. And as the Grand Signior makes no allowance for their deficiencies, it falls on the Bashaw or other officers to find

ways and means of raising the necessary sums, and make up for those become incapable of paying.

ALMOST every year there are incursions of this sort, if short their duration, the damage committed by the Bedouins is supportable. But when any of their flying camps has established itself, they ruin the neighbourhood, and by degrees detach from the jurisdiction of the government the lands they have invaded, pretend thereby a right of possession and pay no tribute.

THERE are many examples of such usurpations. And when I was in Egypt, the government was greatly molested by one of the Schechs of the Bedouins. He made himself master of a very fertile tract of land near Monfaluth, and there camped with his followers to the number of four or five thousand men.

IN the beginning, opposition had been made to his enterprize, but being lucky enough to get the better of the Bey of Girgein some encounters, his power was so rivetted, that when I was in Egypt he and his adherents were in quiet possession of that part of the country they had invaded.

THE government was moreover obliged to come into terms of accommodation with him in order to prevent a farther spreading of his usurpation, and on condition that he would not harass those in his neighbourhood.

THE new made subjects of this Chieftain pay tribute to him alone, and the privation of the revenue of those lands, is a sensible loss to the government.

THE Pedouins of Ouladeche opposite to Benesoeff had a like origin, and have so well maintained themselves, in the lands they had usurped, that they now live in an absolute independance. They are even become so formidable, that no Turk dare venture among them. He would run too dangerous a risk, for the Arabians of that canton give the Turks no quarter. They receive all guilty fugitives, and neither prayers nor menaces can avail to make them be delivered up to the government.

ANOTHER kind of Arabians inhabit the mountains over-against Ell-Gurzone. They are consummate villains, rob on the river, and on land; their body is not very nu-

merous. The Bey of Girge is constantly in pursuit of them, they notwithstanding support themselves to the great detriment of the navigation on the Nile.

I THOUGHT it necessary to give a proper idea of the Arabians of those parts, that they might not be confounded with those of Upper Egypt, of whom I shall give an account. Even since the conquest of Selim, they have kept possession, and even the sovereignty of their country.

ARABIAN princes called Schechs possess all that part of Egypt, which extends on both sides of the Nile from Girge to Esfuaen. They are tributary to the Grand Signior. When the father dies, the son who succeeds is obliged to pay acknowledgment to the Bashaw. That is called the purchase of the lands of the deceased father.

BUT if a father abdicates in favour of his son, the son is not to pay the above acknowledgment during his father's life.

THOSE princes rule as sovereigns over their subjects, and are so jealous of their power, that they do not allow the Bey of Girge to enter on their lands, without ha-

ving first obtained their permission, and there is no example of their having ever granted it to him, but when he goes to Hene, where the Bey is obliged to assist at a festival; or to meet them in a conference on some extraordinary occasion.

THERE is a great number of these Arabian princes; but the most considerable are those of Negadi, Achmin, Effna, Farfinth, Nichée, Berdis, and Uladjeche.

THEY have often conventions, in order to take the properest measures for their preservation, and the settling of all disputes among their subjects or themselves. These matters are often amicably determined, but if any of the parties prove too obstinate, the dispute is then decided by an open war.

IN any war among themselves they never let the government send troops to either side; notwithstanding they cannot help its deriving some indirect advantages from such quarrels.

FOR the conqueror knows very well that the Turks will stir up fomentations against, and will render him so obnoxious to his jealous neighbours, that he shall ne-

ver be able to rise, and if it should so happen, that both parties are exhausted by the war, the government never fails to overwhelm them alike.

It is obvious, that divide and govern is the political maxim of the Turks to reduce them. Not only the differences that arise among those princes, but also the different pretensions made by the children for succeeding to their father give the Turk an opportunity of bringing about their ruin.

SUPPOSE for example, that a father has left ten children, without having fixed the succession on any one. The affair is brought to Cairo, where the Bashaw never fails to decide that the succession shall be divided among the brothers; who are never pleased with such a sentence; and the Bashaw not being able to execute it by force, the brothers mutually maintain their pretensions by arms.

IN the end the conquerors are obliged to have recourse a-new to the Bashaw to confirm them in their rights to the dominion, which is obtainable but by a good sum of money. Besides, the Bashaw makes use

of that occasion to raise the tribute those princes pay to the porte.

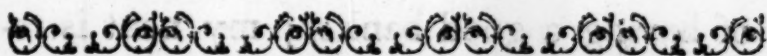
It must not, however, be imagined that matters are carried on so fast as I have written them down here. Some of those litigations continue for three or four generations. And during that time often change complexion, from the different conjunctures happening either in the government, or in the country.

If the Bashaw be well established in the country, he knows when and how to awaken dormant contestations, which is a source of money for him.

ON the other hand, if an Arabian prince be not in good circumstances, he is no way troubled about any difficulties either the Bashaw or the regency can scheme against him.

SUCH of the Arabian princes as are powerful enough to make themselves respected, are commonly flattered, and their friendship is courted by the beys, and other officers of the portes, who have any share in the government. The places they are charged with being so liable to frequent revolutions, they strive while in, to make friends

of the Arabian princes, that they may hereafter find an asylum amongst them, should the situation of their affairs compel them to fly thither for safety.



Advice to a curious Traveller in Egypt.

WHAT I have here to say regards only those gentlemen who travel, in order to make useful researches for the republic of letters; the mercantile people who go to Egypt, will from the trading people they are addressed to there, receive all necessary instructions for their purposes.

I CONCLUDE from experience, that a banker is of more service in Egypt than in any other place, where money is the only thing required of them. But here they must also be your host, and a kind of protector. There are no inns fit to entertain a gentleman: the banker then must provide you all the necessaries of life, either in his own house, or in that of some friend. If he be of a nation that has a consul there,

this minister furnishes the protection. If the banker be even a Jew, and a man of capacity, he will be of weight enough to secure a traveller from any insult.

My first advice fulfilled, in the article of having a good banker; my next is relative to the journey.

BEGIN by dressing yourself in the Turkish manner; for though at Alexandria you may appear in an European dress, it is better to be habited like the Franks, which the people are more used to, and by which means you will sooner come at the knowledge of their customs, and usages of the country, and be less exposed to reflexions of comers and goers. A pair of mustachios, with a grave and solemn air, will be very proper companions, by which you will have a resemblance to the natives.

THUS accoutred, here is a janissary for your service, and, if possible, one who has been used to serve the Franks. Janissaries are to be had on very reasonable terms. They commonly speak what is called *Lingue Franca*. They accompany a traveller to every place it is lawful for him to approach. No body will dare to insult you

while he is by. If they meet a person of distinction, they know how to give an account to him of those they escorte; and if the rabble offer to gather round you, they disperse them with menaces.

THE bankers know the janissaries capable of serving, and their recommendation may be relied on.

IT is necessary, that previous to a traveller's arriving at Alexandria, he have read the antient authors, and from thence have formed to himself some idea of what he is to see, compare, and examine.

BUT the country having been strangely altered since the time of the antients, the curious traveller must apply for modern assistance, to put him in the road, which is to be done thus; he may easily make acquaintance with the different natives of Europe, established in the country, who, on this head, can be of very great service to him.

THE caution of not listening too implicitly to them must be his guide. They are in general very jealous of each other. The traveller's business is to sift them, and

to attach himself but to those he judges can be useful to him.

THE truchman (for example) of the French nation is commonly bred in Egypt, knows the language and customs perfectly well; if, joined to these requisites, he has been curious, he is a very proper person to point out to you the places, in which there is any thing worth being seen. The instructions he can give are not to be neglected; but verify every thing yourself, for what one person may despise, another may think deserves notice, and from thence derive informations that have escaped the less attentive.

AT first setting out there, many of the new acquaintance a traveller has made, politely offer him their company, to visit the antiquities of the country. Their civility is not to be refused, nor will it be of any duration; for the common objects of every body's curiosity seen, they give up, and strive to dissuade those who intend any thing more; whether they fear being fatigued, or exposed to any accident: but an attendant janissary is a safe guard against such fears.

THE janissaries are fond of smoking their pipe, and having little to do, which two articles they fully enjoy, in waiting on a traveller. They matter not how long you stop at a place; to while away time is their happiness.

LET travellers remember, that it is imprudent to yield to their curiosity so far, as to attempt penetrating into places, to which access is forbid by the Turks; to wit, their fortresses and mosques. Travellers also be cautious of tempting your janissaries with a bribe, which may tempt them to hazard against the law, and expose you to danger; for should you escape once, the odds are a hundred to one that you will in the end be the dupes of your curiosity.

I STRENUOUSLY advise you to beware visiting forbidden places, unless before-hand provided with a permission, of a nature to secure you from any risque; nor will it be amiss, before the trouble is taken, to know if the object in question be worth it.

You will observe a great deal of the marvellous in most of the conversation of

your new-made acquaintance in the country. They will tell you of a thousand accidents that have befallen travellers, or others.

WERE those story-tellers to be believed, very few travellers would go beyond the walls of antient Alexandria. The boldest might, perhaps, venture as far as Cairo.

A SENSIBLE man ought to conclude nothing from hearsay; let experience be his guide, and little regard be paid to all the reports of the ignorant, or too credulous.

VERY little precautions is necessary for those who intend to go no farther than Cairo; to which city the common road will conduct you in safety.

WHILE at Alexandria, there is no necessity of having an interpreter. It is proper for those who intend to go any farther to have a valet, who understands and speaks Arabic; for a dispute which might happen among the fellows of the boat you are in, or amongst them and passengers, natives of the country, would be enough to alarm strangers, not understanding their jargon, if they had not some person

to explain to them the cause of their difference.

WHEN at Alexandria; should it so fall out, do not let slip an opportunity of travelling in company with the missionaries, or any European merchants; for besides the advantage of their understanding the language, one can rely more on the relations of such creditable people, than on those of a knavish valet, Jew, or Greek, who has often effrontery enough to imagine danger, in order to make appear of what mighty use he is.

LET this be a rule for your conduct, not only in Alexandria; but all over Egypt; "Never dig under any antiquity; "never break off a piece of stone from any "monument whatever."

You must be satisfied with seeing what is obvious to the view, and those places whereto you can mount or climb. You must not yield to the flattering hopes of having an entire survey of the antique monuments; the consequence would be dangerous.

A CONSUL of France attempted to dig near the obelisk of Cleopatra, in order to

come at a knowledge of its just dimensions. Before he began, he took care to have permission, which was with great difficulty obtained.

NOTWITHSTANDING the permission, he could not accomplish his design. What he had dug by day, the natives filled up by night.

THE obstinate opposition to all attempts arises from the persuasion of the people, the high and the low, that their antique monuments cover some hidden treasure. Nor can they imagine that meer curiosity brings strangers into Egypt only to dig the ground. They on the contrary most firmly believe, that the motive is avarice, and therefore will not allow the ground to be dug any where. Should any person attempt it in private, and be discovered, he is looked on as a thief. They insist he has carried off the treasure they suppose to have been concealed there, and to have the greater hold on him, they make the pretended treasure amount to an excessive value.

ONE would think, that the great people of this country, infatuated with s idle

a notion, should never cease having the earth stirred, and rummaged, and destroy those remains of antiquity to facilitate their research after treasure. Many of them have acted so, and several tired of the expence, and finding nothing to compensate it at last desisted, but yet retain their former ridiculous notion, which they have heightened by supposing these treasures enchanted, that they sink deeper into the earth from those who come near them, and that none but the Franks, who pass in Egypt for great magicians, can raise the charm.

ANOTHER motive has put a stop to such researches, two famous enterprizers in digging the earth, were seized on by their superiors, who fleeced them, and would never believe their asseverations, that they had found nothing. They were by these accused of having found treasures, and of denying that they might not share with them. Every day, and on trifling pretexts, they were insulted a-new, and in the end obliged to pay the supposed profit of a research so disadvantageous to themselves.

THE antiquities at Alexandria, whether

medals, engraved stones, and other such articles, are discovered in rainy weather, when the incumbent dirt is washed away.

FOR when on some occasions the earth is stirred, they tell their motives, that it is to get stones for building, &c. and all manner of caution is taken not to injure the antique pieces, which by this lucky jealousy are as yet preserved amongst a barbarous people that despises them.

I SHALL say nothing of the peril a stranger exposes himself to, who should be weak enough to give into an amorous intrigue. I suppose, that whoever for instruction sake, take the trouble of travelling to Egypt in research after antiquities, is a sober and continent man, and has nothing to fear on that head. If any person, however, should be fool enough to indulge so idle a passion, I refer him by way of antidote to the recitals of those who have frequented Alexandria and Cairo.

THEY will inform him that young merchants have been assassinated in those two cities. That others, after having spent their all, to make the janissaries not reveal

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their secret, found themselves so egregiously bubbled in the end, that instead of having enjoyed ladies of distinction, some high blooded kinswoman of Cleopatra's, they had been the paramours of most abandoned prostitutes, who in order that their dear Strephons should never forget their kindness, had given them a memento indelible by time, place, or mercury.

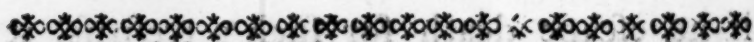
STRANGERS must avoid in Egypt more than in any other country, all occasions of being insulted by the natives. But if unluckily one is insulted, it is prudent to be deaf to, or not to see it; the utmost a stranger can do with safety is to menace, let him beware of striking a Mussulman. For if he escape death for such a trespass, it would cost him all he is worth, and what is the more aggravating in such cases, the friends to the person struck interfere, nor desist but through force of money.

IF a stranger is absolutely determined to have satisfaction, he must apply to the judge for it; but he will find it so expensive, as to be never tempted to make a second application.

WHATEVER else remains necessary for a

traveller to know, he will learn immediately after his arrival in the country. I thought it necessary to instruct him about the articles I have touched on. For perhaps on the spot, the information would be too late; add to that the necessary diffidence of believing all that is said there.

For my part, I confess, I could have been very glad, to have had such informations given me, before-hand, and I publish them from the honest motive of their being useful to curious travellers, who shall hereafter be in situations like to those I have been in.



The wonderful Serpent, or the Miracles of
SCHECH HARIDI.

THE Arabians affirm, that after his decease, Schech Haridi was buried at the place called by his name, and that God, by a special grace, has changed him into a serpent that is never to expire, dispenses cures, and grants favours to all

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who implore his succour with proper sacrifices.

It is apparent, however, that this wonderful serpent has the faculty of distinguishing persons, and is generally more propitious to the great folks than to the poor.

If an Arabian Schech happen to fall sick, the serpent politely offers to be carried to him. But the common people must earnestly implore his visit and promise to reward him for his trouble, nor is this sufficient to draw him forth without a particular ceremony. A spotless virgin must be sent embassadress, for the virtue of the fair sex only has power with him; and if the deputed solicitress had suffered the least stain in her reputation, the recoiling serpent would wind himself up in inexorability.

As soon as the virgin is presented, she makes a compliment to him, and with most devout submission supplicates his condescension to let himself be carried to give succour to the sick.

THE serpent, who is so devoted a servitor of the fair sex's virtue, that he can re-

fuse it nothing, begins by wriggling his tail, and skips about: animated by these auspicious signs, the virgin grows more fervent in her entreaty.

THE serpent, unable to resist any longer, springs to her neck, and nestles on her bosom in voluptuous ease. Thus is he carried triumphantly in the midst of acclamations to the sick petitioner's house.

HE is scarce brought thither, when the before afflicted patient already feels himself relieved. This wonderful physician does not immediately withdraw, though the cure be performed. He is civil enough to stay some hours, near the patient, if care be taken during that time, to regale his attendant priests and saints that never quit him.

THESE wonders go on swimmingly, provided that no impious person, nor Christian, happen to be near; their presence would ruin all. For the sharp-sighted serpent, that never fails espying them, immediately disappears. All search for him would be in vain. Were he even carried to the other side of the Nile, he would

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find his way invisibly to the tomb, his favourite residence.

THE Arabians impudently assert, that if this serpent was cut to pieces they would instantly re-unite, because he is to enjoy eternal life.

THE Christians in this country reason very differently on the subject, and decide it according to the spirit of their religion. They very piously conclude, that this pretended serpent is the very devil, who by a just judgment of God, is impowered to abuse this blind and ignorant people, and they are confirmed the more in this belief, by a tradition subsisting amongst them, that it was to this place the angel Raphael banished the Demon Asmodi; of whom mention is made in the book of Tobias.

FOR my part, I look on both as equally trespassers against the rules of common sense.

BEFORE a thing should be deemed miraculous, or supernatural, strict inquiry ought to be first made as to the reality of the fact; next if the circumstances be such

as related; thirdly, if there be no fraud in the exhibiting them.

I GRANT, for example, that there is a serpent. Is he immortal? I cannot believe it. He dies, no doubt, like all other serpents.

THE priests, who very well know it, and get so much by the report of his immortality, take care to have another trained, one of the same kind, ready to substitute in his place the moment he dies.

THERE is nothing supernatural in the delicacy ascribed to this animal, of his not bearing to be touched but by a virgin, and to remain immoveable, if her virtue has received the least blemish. Whoever has seen the legerdemain people play their tricks in the great place before the castle of Cairo, must have been struck with feats more surprising than this. Is any thing easier than to make a tame serpent obey certain signs? and as to the virginity of the embassadress, they always take care not to be deceived by chusing one too young to fall under the reach of suspicion. It is very well known too, that certain odours, and certain herbs, attract serpents; may not

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the young maiden have been rubbed over with such, or prepared in a bath wherein the herbs had been infused? It is visible to all, that her head is adorned with several wreaths of flowers and herbs, among which certainly were not omitted those capable of making an impression on the serpent.

To the other question, how is it possible he can escape from the eyes of so many spectators, and get home to his tomb, though carried to the other side of the Nile, which he should be obliged to cross in his return? I answer, it is easier than the rest. We must look on all these priests and saints attendant on the serpent, as so many artists at hocus-pocus, and then where is the difficulty of believing them capable of legerdemaining the serpent from before a number of spectators, however attentive, considering their gross ignorance?

THE farce thus played, they pretend to follow their saint, attended by a crowd of people, who through reverential awe dare not approach the tomb before the priests

have gone into it, and there at their leisure replaced the serpent.

To first cut the serpent in pieces, and afterwards to see the parts re-unite, would be an indisputable proof of his immortality, but that step has never been taken yet. For when once on a time, the Emir of Achmiin ordered that experiment to be made, the priests rose in a body against it, nor will they ever suffer it to be made; for then they must shut up their miracle shop.

THOUGH I am not surpris'd that Arabians and Christian coftes give head long into this pious fraud devoid of verisimilitude, into which credulity their ignorance leads them, I pronounce some learned people unpardonable who had a mind to refine on this subject, and discovered something mysterious veiled under so ridiculous a fable.

*The Dog and the Saint.*

WHILE our people were busied in packing our baggage at Esslaen, we were favoured with the visit of a Mahometan saint, who with one hand played on the tambourine, and in the other held a crooked stick, with which he mystically touched our coffers and ourselves, giving us a kind of benediction in his course manner. An unworthy dog belonging to one of our crew, on whom he would also extend his charitable influence through the intermeditation of his crooked stick, growled a dislike to the ceremony. And misinterpreted the brandishing of the stick, for the preluding menaces of an immediate assault, which to prevent, he flew at, and seized him by the throat; down dropt the saint, the dog on the top of him. He cried out piteously, and changed his recent blessings into so many curses, whilst the mob gathering round vowed vengeance for the insult, com-

mitted on their favourite saint by infidels, and an heretical dog.

To put an end to this serious farce, which might be turned to real tragedy, I sent by our Jew servant two sevillans by way of softeners to the saint. They produced the desired effect; the saintly fraternity is every where appeased by submission and cash. The gored saint withdrew from the bark, called the mob off with him, and pacified them in the best manner he could. We neither heard of them, nor his maledictions more.



The Female Combatant.

A Droll adventure happened in our inn while I lay sick at Cairo, occasioned by a public procession, or feast of the circumcision, which they assert to be the most solemn of all those that so frequently patrol their streets. This excited the curiosity of the servants of a nobleman I had got acquainted with in Italy, and along with whom the journey to Upper Egypt was to be made.

THE servants, in order to view the ceremony without obstruction, were posted on a terrace directly opposite to some of the apartments of the palace of Omer Bey.

THIS palace was commonly unoccupied, but one of Omer's wives had repaired thither that day to be a spectatress of the procession; and irritated, according to the custom of the country, on perceiving herself exposed to the view of strangers, she ordered her eunuchs to throw stones at them by way of civil admonition to quit their post.

THE servants were sensible of the assault, but not knowing from what side it came, and, taken up with the noise in the street, did not pay any attention to this first alarm.

A RUDER one ensued; for Omer's wife, filled with indignation at their obstinate permanence, ordered the eunuchs to fire pistols, to effectually dislodge them.

BUT the latter discharge being as little minded as the former, Omer's wife grew outrageous, and construed their ignorance into a determination to affront her. There-

fore, as soon as the proceſſion was over, ſhe ſent ſeven or eight janiffaries to take into cuſtody our indiſcreet ſpectators.

SICK in bed, I knew nothing of what had happened, but obſerved four janiffaries traaverse my room, to get into another that led to the guilty terrafs. They went on tip-toe through my room, and I was beſides ſo accuſtomed to people going backwards and forwards in it, that I did not think of any conſequence; I ſaw with the ſame indifference two of the janiffaries return through my room, having left the two others, to watch the ſervants they had made priſoners.

THE four janiffaries, who had remained without doors, encouraged by the firſt attempt againſt the ſervants ſucceeding, thought they might undertake any thing, and to complete the triumph, went into their maſter's apartment, two laid hold on him; the other two ſeized his lady, and muſſed her, in order to carry her to a cave in the neighbourhood.

SUCH acts of violence were pleaſing to neither huſband nor wife. They mutually roused each others courage. She be-

gan, by giving a kick in the belly to one of her assailants, and at the same time run the point of her scissars into the bosom of the other, and obliged them to decamp from her. The husband in the mean time having broke from the two that had surprised him, ran to his loaded carabin which he held in one hand, his sabre in the other, and vowed immediate destruction to them if they did not instantly depart.

THIS was more than enough to intimidate such dastardly wretches, they retreated precipitately. But the fray did not end here; for the two who had returned from the terrass through my room, were gone to call assistance, and appeared in the instant with fifty armed men.

THE combat is renewed with more violence than ever. The field of battle was over-against my chamber, in the very spot where the auxiliary corps joined the first defeated assailants. The terror of the carabin kept them aloof. They all cried out, that if the carabin were not instantly laid down, they should have no quarters; one among them observing how little the me-

nace was minded, fired a pistol, the ball went over the gentleman's head.

AT this alarm I rose from my bed to see what was the matter, and opened my door; in the very moment our heroine was in the greatest perplexity how to rescue her husband from such imminent danger. She soon resolved within herself, and nimbly pushed him into the chamber, made it fast, and returned to attack the enemy.

THIS expedient, joined to her resolution, was the safety of us all. For the husband growing more and more incensed, would perhaps have fired and killed one of those scoundrels, which would draw on fatal consequences, especially had he seen them hold a poignard to the throat of his beloved. The husband was thus secured from danger, though in the most violent agitation for being so.

FREE from apprehensions about her husband, she combats with them not with more moderation than her husband would, but in a manner less productive of fatal events. One of her enemies retreated, weeping the loss of part of his beard, which she had torn off. Another disabled by a kick,

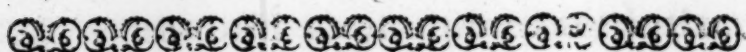
limps away. She feels for the ribs of a third with her scissars. She presents the fourth with a spanking box on the ear. And awakes a fifth from his amazement at what had passed, by cracking the duplicate on his cheek. In fine, there was not one of them, but had a share of her favours; not indeed of the softer kind.

By her evolutions and dexterity in attacking and defending, it appeared that this was not the first essay of this intrepid heroine's entering the offensive list with our sex.

SECONDED at length by a janissary whom her courage, from an enemy, had made a proselyte champion in her cause, in less than half an hour she drove out of the house the fifty armed scoundrels, who came to take her, and her husband prisoners.

THE Bashaw being informed of her many brave feats, and of the servants innocence, from that day forward had us protected from all such insults, in a distinguished and extraordinary manner, which could

not have been obtained, had any Turk been killed in the fray.



The SCARED ARABIAN.

ANOTHER source of the aversion of the Arabians against Europeans, besides the notion of their coming in quest of treasure, is that, they travel through Egypt as spies, with an intent of informing their countrymen of its situation, who are hereafter to invade it, and exterminate all the natives. Nothing can put this ignorant surmise of theirs in a more ridiculous light, than the following absurd incident.

SAILING up the Nile one day, as I was reviewing my designs, and rectifying the names of some villages, a passenger, native of the country, rushed suddenly on me, snatched the paper out of my hand, and tore it.

I WAS struck with amazement, not knowing what to conclude from such insolent behaviour; and while I was in suspense,

whether I should be angry or not, the reys, with others, burst into a fit of laughter; I desired to know the cause; they had the mystery unfolded to me.

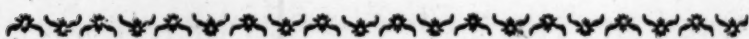
It seems the poor fellow was resolved, that I should not know the place of his nativity; and the reason he gave for it was, that I perhaps had a design of returning thither some years after, and that bringing an army with me, I should conquer the country; and that if he let me preserve the name of his village in writing, that I should also take it along with the rest, and that was his patriot motive for snatching and tearing the paper, whereon I was going to write the name of his village.

I COULD scarce refrain laughing at the fellow's simplicity, although highly offended at his insolence.

To prevent future attacks of his on my draughts, I ordered the reys to put him ashore, that the bark was ours, and that it was through favour that he had his passage.

THE reys was ready to obey; but the scared poor fellow, at seeing the bark turn

to land, guessed the intent, implored my forgivneefs, and promised better behaviour for the future. I consented to his not being turned out; and afterwards he behaved quietly, and was ready to do any piece of service in his power.



Extract of a Letter.

BUT my sickness daily encreasing, and my strength consequently decaying, I fear I shall not live to digest, and arrange in proper order my observations; and the reputation of many a man has been hurt by posthumous editions of their works, and that through the mistaken zeal of friends, more sanguine than judicious, who think any trifle omitted, is an injury to the memory of the deceased, whereas the real debt of friendship consists in weeding a work, and presenting the reader with nothing but the true, the fair fruits of knowledge.

As among my draughts there are several of little or no importance, which may the rather be omitted, as a publication of

them must clog the work; so in the narrative part many incidents, only relating to me, may appear but an indifferent entertainment to a reader, desirous of curiosities; and in truth, details of the vile practices of the banditti part of the Arabians; or of the screwing extorsions of their infamous schechs, reflect dishonour on humanity, and must rather excite horror than pleasure in delicate minds.

IT is my desire that all wandering prolixities be curtailed, in order to avoid the sarcastic imputation of the French nation against the learned of the North, to wit, that they never know when to have done with a subject, *Ils ont tant la rage de bavarder*. They have such a passion for prattling about trifles.

THE principal objects to be attended to in the works are the course of the Nile, Pompey's columns, the pyramids, the obelisks, the ruins of Luxor, of antient Thebes, Memnon's palace, the colossal statues, and the place where the Nile was locked with a chain.

A VIEW of the present government of Egypt, &c. and such anecdotes as are truly

entertaining will be most properly placed after the journal of the Nile, that it may not be interrupted, but closely pursued by the curious reader, from which journal all uninstruative digressive matter ought to be removed.

THE instability of human magnificence appears from the transmigrating revolutions of the three celebrated cities of Egypt; first Thebes flourished: with its ruins Memphis had been since built; with the ruins of Memphis antient Alexandria has been raised, which is now no more; but from many striking remains amongst the ruins, its origin can be proved.

Tantum est in rebus inane.

Such is the nothingness of mortal works.

Debemur morti nos, nostraque.

All must perish.

F I N I S.

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